

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, February 4, 1988

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## Annie Armstrong

Annie Armstrong, for whom the annual home missions offering is named, was the first national executive of Woman's Missionary Union. She was actively involved in doing missions as well as supporting missions. Armstrong had a deep interest in working with children, the poor and the homeless, and she did all three in her hometown, Baltimore, Md. Each year Southern Baptists honor her missionary zeal as they give to support home missions. This year's offering goal is \$37.5 million.

## Church starting is key to SBC growth

By Joe Westbury

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Starting new churches is the only way Southern Baptists will be able to evangelize America, claims Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"Wherever there are souls to be reached for Christ, there needs to be a church. It doesn't have to be an Anglo church, but the gospel must be presented within the cultural context of the group we are trying to reach," he said.

That goal — to provide churches for every culture — is the focus of the 1988 Week of Prayer for Home Missions, March 6-13. The theme for the week is "A Church for Everyone."

Lewis speaks from experience. A church planter at heart, he began 13 missions in 14 years as a pastor and believes starting new churches is the "greatest endeavor in the world."

The agency president warned that without additional churches, Southern Baptists will fail to increase the number of baptisms (conversions).

"We will not drastically change our baptismal picture until we have more places to tell who Jesus is. If we're going to get the baptismal record up to a million people annually, it will only happen when we have 15,000 more churches and church-type missions," he stressed.

Southern Baptist evangelism leaders have lamented the fact that the denomination has hovered around the 400,000 mark for annual baptisms

for the past decade.

The denomination's churches baptized about 364,000 new believers during 1986, ending a four-year decline. The total increased about 13,000 or 4 percent, over the 351,071 baptisms reported the previous year.

While new churches are needed throughout the nation, the board has issued a call for greater emphasis on evangelizing the country's metropolitan areas and starting more black and ethnic churches.

That emphasis will require Southern Baptists to aggressively evangelize areas outside the Bible Belt where they have their roots.

"These are days of unprecedented opportunity for us to touch with the gospel the American mosaic of cultures and lifestyles which are our cities. They are a window to the entire world," Lewis said.

The nation's two largest cities — New York City and Los Angeles and their suburbs — contain more than 30 million people, equal to the combined populations of eight Southern states where the denomination has 17,000 churches.

Yet, there are only 500 Southern Baptist churches in those cities — one for every 63,000 people — while the eight Southern states have one church for every 2,000 residents.

While the board has set national priorities in church starting, Lewis has urged local congregations to start missions and new churches within their own communities.

## Starting churches is responsibility of all

By Susan Todd

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — All Southern Baptists agree that everyone needs Jesus. Southern Baptists also agree that everyone needs a church in which to worship.

But Southern Baptists aren't providing a church for everyone.

That's a problem that concerns home missionary Tom Blase. "Everyone believes we should be involved in missions. But it is easier to pull out a check for a missions offering than to go personally and be involved," he said. "Some churches lack the priorities. It takes a deeper commitment."

Jesus gave the mandate for personal involvement in the Great Commission, he said. The responsibility of sharing Christ and starting churches lies with every church, not a select few, he asserts.

Helping Southern Baptist churches see and accept this responsibility is what Tom Blase is all about.

While Blase was a seminary student at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., he pastored an inner-city church. "It was during that time, seeing the needs of the inner city, that I saw the differences in people," he said. He realized that despite their differences, they each needed Jesus.

"How we introduce people to Jesus is to meet them where they are," Blase said. But that inner-city church was not meeting people where they were. The members weren't reaching into all of the groups of people within their neighborhood. As the needs more sharply came into focus, Blase developed a desire to provide a church for everyone — from the down-and-outs to the well-to-do.

The inner city of Kansas City became, for Blase, a church starting training ground. That training has equipped him to do what he does today. He is church extension and language missions director for the St. Louis Metro Baptist Association.

"My role is one of a catalyst, a coordinator of beginning new work. I help to determine where new work is needed (in the St. Louis area) and then work with sponsoring churches to help them catch the vision. Some already have the vision but just need someone to help it become reality."

Making visions become reality is Blase's specialty. He has personally had a part in starting 10 new works in St. Louis during his four years with the association. Each group is in varying stages of development, from Bible studies to chapels to full-fledged churches.

Each new work begins as a Bible study. As its members grow and mature in the Christian faith, many of these groups eventually become churches.

Even though Blase speaks only English, he has worked with groups of Chinese, Koreans, Laotians, Spanish, Vietnamese, Cambodians, Japanese, American Indians, Arabs and the deaf.

According to Blase, language is not the only barrier which must be overcome. Many times, a need is identified, but he is unable to find a church willing to sponsor a mission.

But frustrations reach beyond finding sponsoring churches, according to Blase. "One of the biggest (frustrations) is (knowing) God's timing. We can strategize on paper, but if it is not

in God's time, it is not going to work."

Starting churches can be draining when things don't fall into place easily, Blase said. But as the responsibilities are spread among several people, the job becomes easier. "The key is getting the laity involved," he said.

Those efforts work more smoothly when partnerships are established, Blase said. "The idea is that we don't start new churches at the expense of existing works." Churches working together can accomplish the task, he said.

"My prayer is that more churches would catch a vision to start new congregations — be it Anglo, black, whatever. I believe that just as we as Christians are called to multiply, churches are called to multiply."

Susan Todd writes for WMU, SBC.



Even before Hermitage Hills Chapel in St. Louis, Mo., is completed, Tom Blase (1) discusses outreach possibilities with the chapel's mission pastor, Rick Hoelzer. Blase, who is the director of church extension and language missions for St. Louis Metro Baptist Association, will nurture the mission of Mattese Baptist Church and will encourage members to meet their community's need for Christian witness.



# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## \$40 million goal realized

The governor, the mayor, and a congressman all showed up for Mississippi Baptists' endowment victory dinner last week. And well they should. Mississippi Baptists had accomplished what no one else had been able to do in the state in history. They had successfully completed a \$40 million endowment campaign.

This was the largest amount ever pledged and given in a fund-raising campaign in Mississippi's history.

The recipients of the endowment fund will be the three colleges, Mississippi College, William Carey College, and Blue Mountain College, and the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village.

Gov. Ray Mabus was a speaker at the dinner last week. He noted that education is the debt of one generation to another. He said, "You have repaid that debt for generations to come." Mabus declared that the institutions represented in the endowment campaign are as valuable as any institutions in Mississippi. He said the success of the Mississippi Mission, the endowment campaign, will be an inspiration in Mississippi and around the country.

Mike Espy, the first black congressional representative from Mississippi in more than 100 years, was there and spoke. He said, "There is one thing about Baptists — we can raise money." He added, "There is no greater service for giving money, after giving it to the church, than to give it to education."

Dale Danks is mayor of Jackson, and he was there. He said that he could feel the enthusiasm that night and noted that of the \$40 million total,

\$24 million came from metropolitan Jackson. "That's big bucks," he said. "That's big business." And he added, "So is education. We salute you."

Jerry Clower, Mississippi humorist, was the main speaker. Clower, a member of First Church, Yazoo City, said, "I love you, for I am one of you." He pointed out that he had been an active Southern Baptist Christian for 47 years. "Christianity works," he said, and added that "we need to be able to educate our young people who will tell the world that Christianity works." He declared that he hates negativism and the successful completion of the campaign shows that Mississippi Baptists are positive people and not pessimistic. "God is for raising money for Christian education," he said.

Joe Tuten, pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, conceived of the endowment campaign along with Earl Kelly, executive director for Mississippi Baptists, while Tuten was chairman of the Mississippi Baptist Education Commission. Tuten told the dinner crowd that "Baptist pride is high tonight, and rightly so." He referred to the five-year period of the campaign as the greatest period of effort and accomplishment in Mississippi Baptist history.

Harry Vickery, Greenville automobile dealer, was chairman of the campaign and was master of ceremonies at the dinner. He unveiled a banner proclaiming a total of gifts and pledges of \$40,870,000. He noted that additional gifts that day would put the total close to \$41.4 million.

Kelly delivered a major address to the meeting. It was based on I Cor.

13:13, faith, hope, and love, and the emphasis was on hope. Kelly said that he hopes that Mississippi Baptists realize that endowment campaigns obtain pledges which sometimes take years to materialize and that there always will be a need for a current cash flow. He called on alumni and friends to continue to be liberal in giving and asked individuals and churches not involved in the campaign as yet to realize that much more is needed.

Kelly also noted that donors had been able to designate their gifts and that the ability to do so might cause an institution to realize less than had been hoped.

So the endowment campaign that began five years ago has come to a highly successful conclusion. The need continues, however. Mississippi Baptists' institutions and children's home ministry have been woefully lacking in endowment funds. They had a long way to go just to catch up. They still need more for comfort.

The dinner, held in the Trade Mart on the state fair grounds in Jackson, was very well planned and handled. It was a fitting occasion for such an auspicious situation.

Program personalities were well received including Russell Newport, well-known Southern Baptist tenor soloist from Springfield, Mo. He was accompanied at the piano by the Baptist Record's Irene Martin of Harper-ville. She also provided music during the dinner.

The benediction was delivered, fittingly, by C. J. Olander, a 91-year-old



retired minister from Ridgeland. Frank Gunn, immediate past president of the Mississippi Baptist Con-

vention, delivered the invocation. It was a great victory and a very fitting observation of it.

## Missouri court rejects Baptist lottery appeal

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP) — Missouri Baptist efforts to have Missouri participation in a multi-state lottery declared unconstitutional failed in early January on a 5-2 vote of the Missouri Supreme Court.

The case, Tichenor v. the Missouri State Lottery Commission, was appealed to the state's highest court

following a one-line ruling last November by Cole County Circuit Judge James McHenry which rejected the request for a restraining order and injunction against Missouri involvement in a multi-state lottery. The ruling was affirmed by the state Supreme Court.

In a 15-page majority opinion written by Judge Charles B. Blackmar, the court acknowledged a primary question was whether or not the phrase "Missouri state lottery" used in the state constitution "should be construed strictly because it represents an exception to the historic Missouri policy against lottery and gambling enterprises of all kinds" as argued by the plaintiff-appellant. The defendants' contention was that "the voters of the state showed that they wanted a lottery and that the constitutional authorization should be liberally construed to give effect to this authorization."

In a statement attorney Duane Benton called "an accurate but sad commentary on the lottery," Judge Blackmar wrote: "The basic purpose of the Missouri state lottery is to lift money from the pockets of Missourians, not to reward them."

The prizes are only a means to this end."

As the lottery commission finalizes plans to initiate the seven-member multi-state lottery, Benton warned, "You can't take seven losing lotteries and make a winner. Ask anybody who's played the lottery seven times."

## Guest opinion . . .

## Christian Action Commission Sunday

By Charles Myers

In 1966 the Mississippi Baptist Convention created a new agency and called it the Christian Action Commission. The purpose of the commission was to emphasize biblical teachings that related to practical areas of living in our society. The convention realized that until the gospel is applied in every day life, it is not the gospel of our Lord. The convention also realized it is far easier to talk about the gospel than it is to live it. So the Christian Action Commission was brought into being to remind us that we need to be faithful in applying the gospel where we live and to give leadership in specific areas where circumstances called for it.

At the time the commission was begun the convention wisely defined the areas that were to be emphasized.

These were limited to seven: family issues, human relations, citizenship, church and state, pornography, alcohol and drug abuse, and other moral and social problems. The purpose in defining these areas was twofold. The first was to keep the commission from being too broad and speaking in generalities. The commission was given a specific area in which to work. The second purpose was to keep the commission from being too narrow, becoming a one issue agency, leaving the impression the gospel is applicable in only one or two places.

Sometimes people become zealous over one issue and are critical of the commission because it does not spend all its time on that one issue. We are grateful for every person who has a

concern for applying the gospel in any area, but the gospel is never limited to just one concern. Our job description, mandated by the convention, tells us we must not limit our emphasis to a single area. Our responsibility is to emphasize the seven areas of concern expressed by the convention. There always will be some people more interested in one area than others, even commission members. But this does not diminish our responsibility for the other areas of concern.

February 7 has been designated as Christian Action Commission Sunday on our denominational calendar. We need to use the Sunday to remind ourselves that the gospel of our Lord is one of action, not just talk. The person who has been saved lives the

gospel in his neighborhood. If his salvation experience does not make him different, he has no salvation. We need on this Sunday to take stock of where we are to make sure we are not just one dimensional Christians. We need to make plans to improve our witness in our total living. We need to thank God for leaders in every area of applying the gospel. And we need to pray for the leadership of our Christian Action Commission, even as we thank God for the foresight of our convention leaders which brought the commission into being.

Charles Myers, who retired from the pastorate of Alta Woods Church, Jackson, is chairman of the Christian Action Commission.

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## \$40 million campaign celebrates its victory

By Tim Nicholas

Mississippi Baptists announced in Jackson last Thursday night the successful completion of a \$40 million campaign to endow their three Baptist colleges and their child care agency.

At a banquet at the Mississippi Trade Mart in Jackson, campaign chairman Harry Vickery of Greenville, announced that a total of \$40,870,000 in gifts and pledges had been obtained in the four year campaign.

The banquet was attended by 600 campaign workers and supporters, Gov. Ray Mabus; U.S. Rep. Mike Espy; Hon. Dale Danks, mayor of Jackson; and Yazoo City comedian Jerry Clower.

The funds will go to Mississippi College, Blue Mountain College, William

Carey College, and the Baptist Children's Village on proportional basis. Income from the corpus will go to such as teacher salaries, property improvements, and scholarships. The Mississippi Baptist Foundation will handle investments.

Chairman Vickery noted that the figure quoted does not include a half million dollar gift pledged by a Mississippi church just last week, nor a pledge of \$25,000 that a man at the banquet had made just that afternoon.

At the beginning of the campaign in 1984, the four institutions had a total of less than \$10 million among them. The endowment campaign quintuples that.

Said Gov. Mabus to the crowd, "Don't stop here . . . Keep going. Help

spread the word of Christ, of morality, of learning throughout this state, this nation, and around the world."

Advisers - to the campaign organizers had suggested a goal of \$24 million would be the tops for such a program. Architects of the campaign such as Earl Kelly, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Joe Tuten, pastor of Jackson's Calvary Baptist Church, believed in the \$40 million possibility and that goal was set.

Kelly told the banquet audience that much of the amount announced is deferred giving. "Therefore, we must continue to solicit pledges that will produce a cash flow for the present." And he added that there was a "host of churches that have not yet made a commitment."

## Larry Lewis asks WMU: "Will you?"

By Susan Todd

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis proposed marriage to Woman's Missionary Union Jan. 11.

In his first address to the executive board of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union since becoming HMB president in June 1987, Lewis said, "I want to propose today a relationship and a partnership between Woman's Missionary Union and the Home Mission Board."

"I'm not proposing a structural merger of our two agencies; rather, I'm proposing a partnership that is so close, so committed, so inseparable that it is like unto the marriage partnership."

"The stakes are too high for us to go it alone, each walking our own separate ways, promoting our own programs, doing our own thing. We must become partners, and do together what none of us can do alone."

In his proposal, Lewis pledged himself to a marriage based on mutual love, trust, respect, equality, and commitment. Lewis said the partnership would not be effective without a trust in God and in each other, and acknowledged WMU might not yet know him (Lewis) personally or fully understand him, and thus might not yet trust him implicitly. But he called WMU leaders to base their trust on the 100-year-old "foundation of knowledge, understanding and trust between our two agencies."

He promised to accept WMU "just the way you are, without trying to change you to fit my preconceived expectations." He asked WMU leaders to do the same, despite his weaknesses or shortcomings.

Mutual acceptance must be based on mutual respect, Lewis said. "I want you to know how much I respect Woman's Missionary Union as an organization, and you as leaders of WMU."

But acceptance and respect will be meaningless without the element of equality in the marriage, Lewis said. Although each partner has a differing role, "that doesn't mean one role is superior to the other."

In proposing marriage to WMU, Lewis committed himself to the main tasks of WMU: missions education, mission action, personal witnessing, and mission support.

He pledged complete commitment, both personally and corporately, to

(Continued on page 13)



Greenville layman Harry Vickery, Mississippi Mission campaign chairman, unveils the victory total of \$40,870,000 to the

nearly 600 persons who attended the victory dinner at Jackson's Trade Mart last week. (More photos on page 5.)

## Carolyn says, "Yes"

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union has accepted the marriage proposal extended by Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis.

But it's not the first marriage for either, noted WMU Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford: "We really eloped 100 years ago. The Home Mission Board has been just one of several enduring, close relationships we have enjoyed."

Lewis said he was not proposing a structural merger of the two agencies, but rather a partnership "so close, so committed, so inseparable that it is like unto the marriage partnership."

Weatherford responded, "For us, this is really just a renewing of vows made many years ago to partner with the Home Mission Board in the cause of missions."

WMU is fortunate in that it has enjoyed that same type of partnership role with 20 other Southern Baptist agencies, Weatherford said, particularly the Foreign Mission Board: "There aren't many women who can accept such a marriage proposal and still keep partnering relationships with 19 other suitors. But that is what WMU is all about — supporting and encouraging the cause of missions throughout the Southern Baptist Convention." (Continued on page 13)

## Southern Baptists to buy, transport maize in Malawi

By Judy Garner

BALAKA, Malawi (BP) — Southern Baptists will spend more than a half million dollars this year in Malawi to help keep people fed.

About \$219,000 will buy enough maize in nearby Zimbabwe to feed nearly 11,000 Malawians for seven months. An additional \$300,000 will pay for transporting this and other maize inside the southern African nation.

Missionaries in Malawi received a letter dated Dec. 17 from the office of the Secretary to the Treasury of Malawi expressing "the heartfelt gratitude of the Malawi government

for the genuine concern you have shown during this country's hour of need."

"You have expressed a true spirit of Christianity which has left a deep impression upon us," the letter added.

Usually Malawi is able to produce enough food to eat and export. But during the past year the country has suffered from the combined effects of destructive insects in the north, drought in some areas and too much rain in others, and more than 300,000 displaced Mozambicans who have fled fighting in their own country.

(Continued on page 13)

## Parks asks permission for return to Lebanon

By Mike Creswell

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Let Southern Baptist Convention missionaries return to Lebanon, SBC Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks has urged Secretary of State George P. Schultz.

The plea, sent to Schultz in a letter, was made in late January, a year

after the U.S. government ordered all U.S. citizens, including 24 Southern Baptist missionaries, to leave Lebanon because of the continuing strife there.

Parks wrote the letter on the first anniversary of the ban because of indications the State Department plans

to review the restrictions on American citizens living in Lebanon. Currently only a few exceptions to the order are allowed, primarily Americans with family ties to Lebanon.

Current policy, Parks wrote, "forces

(Continued on page 13)



# Mexican Baptist leaders won't work with Genesis Commission

By Erich Bridges

MEXICO CITY (BP) — Mexican Baptist leaders say they will not support the work of the Genesis Commission, a church-starting organization launched by Southern Baptist conservatives in 1986.

The decision by the Coordinating Board of the National Baptist Convention of Mexico was made public in a statement released in January. The statement was scheduled for publication in the January issue of the convention's periodical, *La Luz Bautista*, and was followed by a similar declaration from leaders of the Central Baptist Association of churches in the Mexico City area.

The association's board voted unanimously Jan. 9 "not to have any relationship of any kind with the Genesis Commission while the Genesis Commission refuses to integrate itself to the national convention or to this association."

The convention statement was signed by Program Coordinator Roberto Torres Liceaja. Three 1987 meetings of convention leaders with Genesis Commission Executive Director Bill Darnell and Manuel Martinez Garibay, the commission's representative in Mexico, yielded no agreement for cooperation, he said.

Contacted in Houston for his reaction, Darnell said he had not received a copy of the statement and expressed surprise at its content.

"I personally have spent a lot of time and a lot of money going down there attempting to coordinate our work with them and do everything possible to cooperate," he said.

Darnell, former pastor of Kirby Woods Church, Memphis, started the Genesis Commission in late 1986 with John Morgan, pastor of Sagemont Church, Houston, layman Randy Best of Houston and other conservative Southern Baptists.

Genesis Commission leaders hope eventually to start thousands of churches in several countries, but they decided to begin in Mexico, Darnell said shortly after the commission was created. He also pledged not to compete with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and its missionaries.

"We're not in competition with the Foreign Mission Board. That's false. We just want to win people to Jesus. . . . We're not wanting to run ahead of anyone or do something that is counterproductive. If there's a lack of cooperation, it will not be from our end."

The new statement issued by the Mexican convention said Genesis Commission leaders were invited "to work through the national program for missions in the convention in order to have only one missionary program." But in the final meeting, it said, "the Genesis Commission communicated . . . its decision not to integrate its work with the National Baptist Convention of Mexico."

"Integration" is a term used by Mexican Baptists to describe joint mission planning, programs, and budgeting. Southern Baptist missionary work and funding in Mexico have been merged with the national convention's program during the last

two decades.

The Genesis Commission's plans for working directly with local churches to start and subsidize new churches "do not encourage unity among the Baptists in this country," the statement said. The "best way to advance in the mission field is working together, coordinating the efforts and the actions of both entities for the benefit of the extension of the gospel in Mexico . . ."

The statement concluded by saying the convention's offer of cooperation is "still valid, and the rest we leave in the hands of the Lord of the harvest."

Darnell described the meetings with convention leaders as warm-hearted, and said the only disagreement that ever surfaced concerned use of Genesis Commission funds.

"They agreed that our church-planting strategy was fine," he said.

"Matter of fact, they said, 'We would love to adopt this as the church-planting strategy of the national convention.' And I was delighted by that. . . . Then they said, 'But that means you give all your money to us.' And I said, 'No, we cannot do that.'"

"Number one, we would not have any funds if we did that. Our donors are not going to give their money to the national convention of Mexico. We want to support local churches and help local churches start new missions, which is our goal. That's when they (the convention leaders) balked. None of those other allegations were even mentioned. There was no problem with anything until . . . I refused to surrender our dollars and give them to the national convention."

When the commission was formed, its declared intention to channel donations directly to overseas churches and pastors drew criticism from several quarters, including Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks.

Parks said the commission might compete with the Foreign Mission Board for donations.

He met with Darnell and Morgan last March, when they issued a joint statement indicating the mission board would continue in a "one-work" approach with the Mexico convention, while the commission would "move ahead immediately in enlisting national workers to help start churches in Mexico."

Darnell said the year-old commission is ahead of schedule in its plans for aiding churches in Mexico, primarily through cooperation with its Mexican representative, Manuel Martinez Garibay.

Martinez has been pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, with some 3,000 members the largest evangelical church in Mexico City, according to a recent study. Bethel has launched numerous mission churches and an urban Baptist church association under Martinez' leadership. The church is a member of the Mexico Baptist convention but is not affiliated with Central Baptist Association.

Genesis Commission donors are subsidizing about 10 mission congregations through Martinez' work and through the First Baptist Church of Merida in Yucatan, Darnell said.

The support involves subsidies of about \$5,000 for each church, spread over three years in progressively declining amounts, designed to "bring a church to a point where she can be self-sufficient and on her own," he explained. "All we are is a subsidizing organization. We don't want to become an organization they're dependent upon, because that's not our purpose."

Martinez has recruited churches "all over Mexico" desiring to start new missions, Darnell said, predicting about 50 mission churches will be started this summer: "We're finding that at the local church level, the pastors are absolutely thrilled about an organization that would want to help their church start a new mission. We're being bombarded with requests from churches that want to. Maybe that statement from the convention is to discourage the churches from having anything to do with us."

Meanwhile, the Mexico convention enjoyed its best church-starting year ever in 1987. Mexican Baptists started 115 churches last year, culminating a nationwide expansion effort and surpassing an annual average of 35 church starts in recent years. Other 1987 statistics are not yet available, but at the end of 1986 Mexican Baptists included about 61,500 church members, 683 churches and some 2,000 mission congregations. Baptisms for 1986 totaled 7,707.

The Southern Baptist mission organization — comprised of the 103 Southern Baptist missionaries in the country — called the jump in church starts "a major turning point in Baptist work in Mexico, signifying an important change in the consciousness of Mexican Baptists from slow growth to visionary, results-oriented evangelism, discipleship and church planting."

Caught in the middle of the convention's dispute with the Genesis Commission are the Southern Baptist missionaries. Their representatives attended only one of the three meetings between Genesis Commission representatives and Mexican Baptist leaders, and were asked by the Mexican leaders not to attend one closed-door session in October.

The leaders indicated they wanted to make it clear neither the missionaries in Mexico nor the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board was influencing their dealings with the Genesis Commission.

Allen Alexander, chairman of the mission organization, said the missionaries would support the convention: "Our position will be the convention position because we have an agreement with the convention to work in an integrated program so there will be one program of work, trying to draw all the churches into unity."

That's the position we have officially taken as a mission. We are going to work in harmony with the National Baptist Convention and its entities. . . . We would be supportive of (the convention's) statement."

Don Kammerdiener, the Foreign Mission Board's vice president for the Americas, said the dispute boils down to a difference in mission philosophy:

"The Baptist mission has been committed to the approach of working with and under the direction of the convention. I think the Genesis Commission approach is weaker because it does not build indigenous churches. We've tried it, and it doesn't work. When you subsidize a church with foreign funds, you have a weaker church."

Darnell said he "believes in our Foreign Mission Board work and what we are doing. I have no problem with that. What we would like to be is just a complementary arm that says, 'Here's a group of guys who are interested in starting churches in Mexico and ultimately all these will be Baptist churches.' I guess I wish it could be that simple. But for some reason — I can't quite get my finger on the reason — it's not that simple."

"Everywhere I've turned to have cooperation, people are just slapping me down. I don't know what to do at this point. I still want to be Christian about it. We feel like the Great Commission came from our Lord, not from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board or the Mexico Baptist Convention."

Erich Bridges writes for the FMB.

## called to pray

Pray that people who responded to Christ during the Billy Graham campaign in Helsinki will become church members and begin discipleship training. Pray that Finnish Baptists will be strengthened in their concern that everybody in Finland hear of Christ as they plan tent meetings to share the gospel.



—James Tiefel  
missionary to Finland



Call the PrayerLine 24 hours a day  
1-800-ALL-SEEK  
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## McAteer joins Bush campaign

WASHINGTON (BP) — Veteran conservative political organizer E.E. McAteer, a Southern Baptist layman, has endorsed George Bush for president and joined the incumbent vice president's campaign for the White House as national director of the Coalition of Christians and Jews for George Bush.

The Memphis, Tenn., activist, whose support also had been sought by Republican presidential candidates Robert J. Dole and Marion G. (Pat) Robertson, told Baptist Press he decided to join the Bush campaign over Robertson because Bush is more experienced and more electable.

McAteer first became widely known within the SBC in 1982, when he lobbied the SBC Resolutions Committee at that year's annual meeting in New Orleans for endorsements of causes on Reagan's social agenda.

McAteer was present with the committee throughout its deliberations and later told Baptist Press he was there at the expressed request of the White House.

## Baptist youths carry bed through Glasgow to publicize 'plea for beds' campaign

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND — Scottish Baptists have launched an urgent area-wide appeal for beds. "Every available commercial and university bed in the Glasgow area has been booked and we are still more than 1000 beds short," reported Douglas Inglis, chairman for the local arrangements of the 1988 11th Baptist Youth World Conference. The conference is to be the largest-ever international conference in Scotland. Some 10,000 Baptist youths from as many as 140 nations are expected to attend the five-day gathering here, July 26-31, 1988. Advance bookings indicate a high attendance for the gathering.

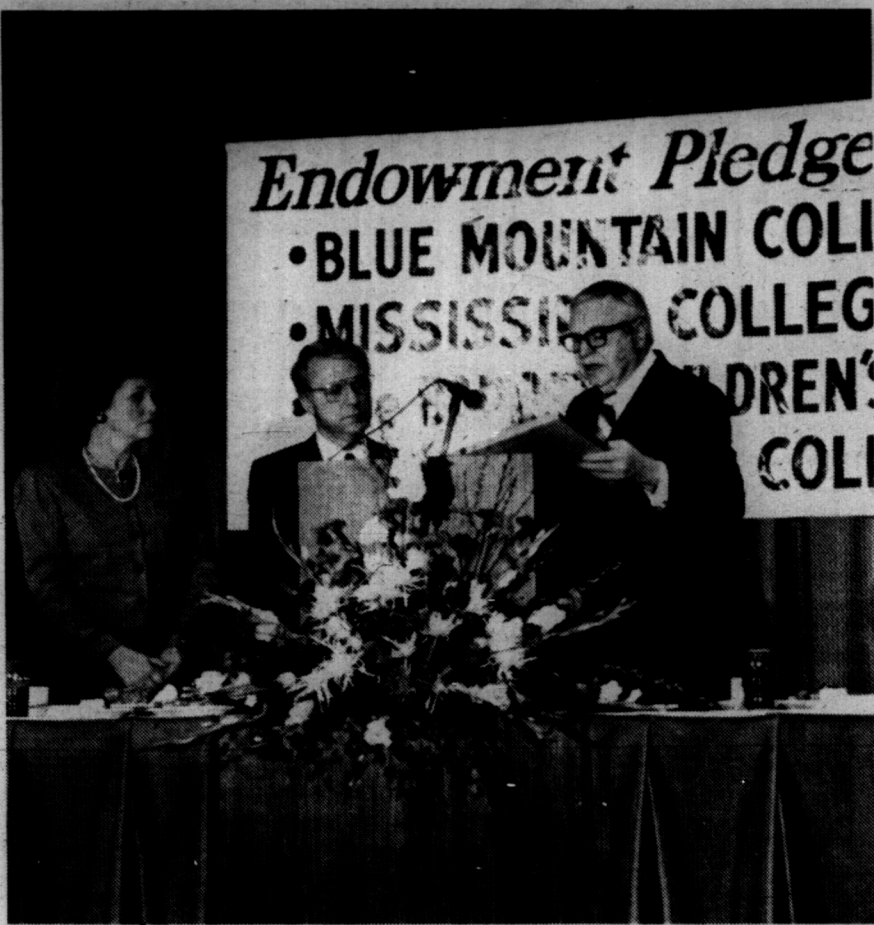
On Dec. 11 they joint-hosted representatives of national media organizations in a 'press kick-off day' in Glasgow. A nationally-known BBC radio announcer that day broadcast a live interview with Paul Montecute, Chairman of the Baptist World Alliance Youth Department

which is sponsoring the event. During the interview Montecute mentioned the serious bed shortage which Scottish Baptists are facing. Immediately following the program, listeners began to call the station and offer 'beds for Baptists.'

In order to help highlight the need for accommodations for the delegates, a group of young Scottish Baptists, wearing T-shirts with the legend "Give a Baptist a bed for '88," plans to carry a bed through west central Scotland. The group will stop at Baptist churches along their route, and encourage members to offer hospitality to delegates.

"We are not just looking for beds in spare rooms," explained Inglis. "We're even asking young Scottish Baptists to give up their bed and sleep on the floor if need be."





Joe Tuten, an architect of the campaign, presents a plaque to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Vickery for Vickery's efforts toward the successful endowment campaign. (Story on page 3.)

## Victory dinner



Missouri singer Russell Newport entertained during the program. He was accompanied by Irene Martin of the Baptist Record staff, who presented piano music during the dinner.



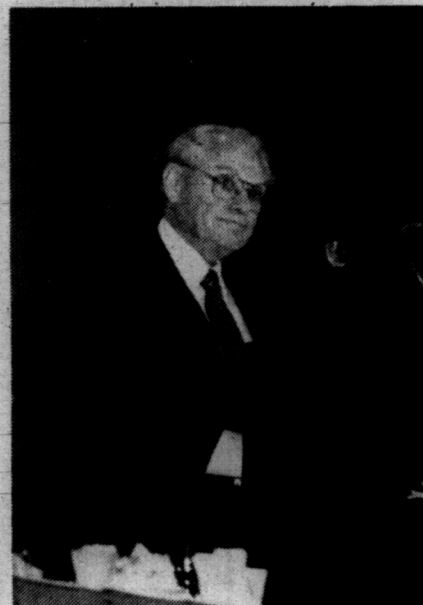
Rep. Mike Espy



Jerry Clower



Gov. Ray Mabus



Earl Kelly



Mayor Dale Danks

## Making a will?

By Aubrey Boone

By making a will you are able to decide how your estate will be distributed and determine how your resources will be used after your death.

In making a will we need always remember that God is the owner of all things and allows us to be stewards of what he entrusts to our care. As Christian stewards we would want to remember the Lord's work in our will.

We at the Mississippi Baptist Foundation would welcome the opportunity to help you with making your will.

You can contact us: Mississippi Baptist Foundation, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205, Phone: 968-3800.

Aubrey Boone is executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

## Mississippi WMU will sponsor trip to Ridgecrest in July

Mississippi WMU will sponsor a plane/bus trip to the WMU Conference at Ridgecrest, July 2-8. Cost for the trip is \$525 which includes transportation by plane to Knoxville, Tenn., then by bus to Ridgecrest, room

and meals while at Ridgecrest (double occupancy), and sightseeing on the free afternoon. Interested women may contact the WMU Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, before April 1.

## MBREA will meet in Biloxi

The 1988 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association will take place Feb. 18-20, at Biloxi's Hilton Hotel.

Featured speakers include Elaine Dickson, a former director of the Southern Baptist REA, who is now a staffer with Corporate Transitions of Brentdow, Tenn. Roger Freeman, pastor of First Church, New Orleans, will be banquet speaker Friday evening.

For details, contact Keith Wilkin-son, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone 968-3800.

## Highland announces singing seminar

A Vocal Freedom Seminar will be held at Highland Church in Vicksburg, Feb. 9 and 11. Ray Holcomb will be teaching the seminar, and it is sponsored by Warren County Association. Anyone interested in improving their singing skills is invited to attend. The cost will be \$15.00 per person if you pre-register, or \$20.00 at the door.

For complete details contact Jim Hess at First Baptist Church, P. O. Box 390, Vicksburg, MS. Telephone is 636-2493.

## Pastor's widow dies

Mrs. Maude S. Malley, 78, died, Dec. 29, 1987, at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. Services were held Dec. 30 Wednesday from First Baptist Church of Florence with burial in Harrisville Cemetery. George Meadows officiated.

A native of Wiggins, Mrs. Malley had resided in Florence since 1957 and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Florence.

Survivors are two daughters, Mrs. Minnie Garrett of Richland, and Mrs. Betty Dear of Harrisville; two sons, Virgil W. (Billy) Malley and Bobby Malley, both of Florence; one sister; one brother; 15 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Mrs. Malley was preceded in death by her husband, Virgil W. Malley, who was a Southern Baptist pastor.

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## Philippine campaign: phenomenal results

By Michael D. Chute

MANILA, Philippines (BP) — A four-month church planting campaign on Mindanao island, jeopardized early by political unrest in the Philippines, took place without incident and recorded phenomenal results, according to Southern Baptist missionaries in charge of the project.

Foreign Mission Board officials reported Jan. 8 that 5,346 people made professions of faith in Jesus Christ and 529 of those were baptized during the church-planting crusades on Mindanao from August through November.

Coming in five waves, most of the 104 American teams left a newly organized church after week-long evangelistic meetings and a week of follow-up.

Similar crusades are planned in early 1988 for the island of Luzon, where Manila is located. But a trip planned Jan. 26 has been rescheduled for early May because of the potential for unrest in conjunction with Jan.

18 regional government elections. Much of the violence in opposition to President Corazon Aquino's two-year-old government has centered around Manila.

About 75 percent of the Bible studies become churches using this method, according to Missionary Jim Slack. Some wait to organize later. This ratio "is phenomenal by what we are seeing worldwide," he added. In the Philippines, about 30 percent of all preaching points become churches during a given year.

Over the past three years, missionaries and Filipinos worked with 257 Bible study groups on Mindanao, preparing them to organize into churches.

American pastors were requested to lead church-planting crusades in these selected sites. The Mindanao Convention asked for an American preacher at each of those 257 sites but only 104 took part in the crusades.

Michael Chute writes for FMB.

## One killed, two hurt in Colombia wreck

BARRANQUILLA, Colombia (BP) — A Colombian Baptist woman was killed and two Southern Baptist missionaries including a Mississippi native were injured Jan. 4 in a one-car accident outside of Barranquilla, Colombia.

Betty Lemos, a mother of four children and a leader in her church in Barranquilla, was killed. Her 5-year-old son, who was traveling with her, received only scrapes and bruises.

Jeni Hester and Kay Brown, both missionary nurses in Barranquilla, were admitted to Baptist Hospital in the city. Hester's pelvis was fractured on both sides, and she lost about three liters of blood, requiring several transfusions. Doctors placed her on a

respirator, and she was expected to remain on it for three days. Brown received a concussion and was disoriented.

The four were traveling from Barranquilla to Cartagena for the Colombia Baptist Convention meeting when the accident occurred in mid-afternoon. The cause of the accident had not been determined.

Hester, from Texline, Texas, has been a missionary in Colombia since 1973. She works in preventative health programs and coordinates medical caravan work from Baptist Hospital.

Brown, a native of Golden, Miss., was appointed in 1986 and has been working in Colombia since July of last year.

## Mexican evangelicals petition government

MEXICO CITY, Mexico (EP) — Residents of San Pedro Cajones have petitioned state and national authorities to uphold constitutional laws guaranteeing the freedom of worship, after recent increases in violence directed against evangelicals in Mexico's Oaxaca state, according to Open Doors News Service.

On Nov. 22, a 25-year-old man was attacked and killed in the village of Guadalupe Cote when he tried to stop a mob from throwing rocks and sticks through the windows of his home, where a group of Christians were gathered for a Sunday morning worship service.

In another incident, a mob of about 50 people attacked worshippers belonging to the Presbyterian Church of La Libertad in Chiapas, a state in southeast Mexico that borders the Pacific. Five were severely wounded

in the attack, instigated when the Presbyterians refused to take part in a local fiesta during which most of the population of the small village consumed large quantities of alcohol.

The citizens' petition, a six-point document, cites a number of alleged violations of the constitutional guarantee of freedom of worship, including arrests of evangelicals for offenses such as practicing their religion in their own homes, at least one arrest when a man was discovered "walking instead of entering on his knees into the Catholic church," and for refusing to drink alcoholic beverages. There were also complaints that evangelicals have been threatened with having their water and electricity cut off after appealing to higher state authorities for an inquiry into the violation of their constitutional rights.

## Mission rally takes on air of revival

By Ferrell Foster

OAK BROOK, Ill. (BP) — With people gathered around him on their knees, Avery Willis prayed that God will do "whatever it takes" — even if that means a stock market crash or war — to bring spiritual awakening in America.

In the unlikely setting of a hotel ballroom, the 1988 Central States Mission Rally became something akin to a revival Jan. 12-14. The preaching brought echoes of "amen" from the large hall. The teaching applied biblical truths to modern life. The music brought hundreds to their feet in praise. And prayers were offered to God. The rally ended with the altar call and the prayer by Willis, author of the MasterLife discipleship training program. More than 600 ministers and laypeople from seven states — Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin — met at a suburban Chicago hotel.

The rally was part of the North Central States Mission Thrust begun in 1974 with a goal of doubling the work in measurable areas — such as number of churches and baptisms — by the end of 1990. Progress toward original goals has been slow, and sights have been lowered.

But because of the impact of the recent meeting and at the request of Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis, mission thrust steering committee President Tal Bonham said the thrust may be extended to the year 2000.

The rally's theme was "Storming the Gates of Hell for Jesus' Sake," and it stressed the biblical command to discipleship and the result it will have in evangelism and church planting.

Perry Sanders, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lafayette, La., was the main preacher; and Willis, of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, led four Bible studies.

Sanders preached the theme sermon from Matthew 16. He said churches are not to maintain the status quo: "We are Panzer troops out there on the move, surging . . . You're not supposed to be holding the fort . . . get out of the fort, and kick down the gates of hell . . . We need to recapture that spirit of aggressiveness."

In Bible studies, Willis spoke on "how we develop gate stormers for Jesus." The key is being filled with the Holy Spirit, he said, noting, "The power and work of God must be done in the power and work of the Holy Spirit."

The filling of the Spirit is "to equip you for service, and you need it every time you go out for service."



Please Don't Litter!

## CLC National Seminar to focus on citizenship

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Christian citizenship will be the focus March 14-16 as Southern Baptist church leaders and lay persons from throughout the country gather here for a national seminar on "Addressing the Nation's Agenda: Christian Citizenship '88."

The meeting, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, will be at the Mayflower Hotel only a few blocks from the White House.

N. Larry Baker, executive director of the Commission, said the seminar will deal with the special challenges and opportunities of Christian citizenship in an election year.

"The seminar will help church staff, lay persons and other denominational leaders discover effective ways to address moral issues which are current-

ly on the national agenda or which should be on the agenda," he said.

Major speakers enlisted to date include Jean Galloway Bissel, circuit judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, Washington, D.C.; Ginny Britt, executive director, Crisis Control Ministry Inc., Winston-Salem, N.C.; Newt Gingrich, Republican congressman from Georgia; William H. Gray, III, Democratic Congressman, from Pennsylvania, and a leading spokesman on African policy; William E. Hull, provost, Samford University, Birmingham; Jerry R. Kirk, president, National Coalition Against Pornography, Cincinnati; and Cal Thomas, columnist, television commentator and author, Manassas, Va.

## Lost tribes found in Burma; over 75 commit to Christ

RANGOON, Burma (EP) — Tribal missionaries from Rakhine and Chin states recently discovered nomadic people believed to be lost tribes of Le Lu Chin, and have had the opportunity to teach the gospel among them, which they are eager to accept.

No missionaries have ever visited the people, but local native missionaries paddled 13 hours in dugout canoes to reach three of the Le Lu villages hidden deep in the jungle rain forest. Missionaries plan to visit more of the villages which have not yet been reached, according to a report from Gospel for Asia.

Native evangelist Ronald Lalthanlana said that the team of seven native missionaries found the people "starved for the Gospel" and eager to accept Christ. So far, 76 peo-

ple from the three villages have made professions of faith and asked that their names be recorded as Christians.

Missionaries taught the people about God, heaven, hell, salvation, and about Jesus Christ, a name none of them had heard before.

The Le Lu have no formal religion but are practicing animists, believing in demon spirits that inhabit rocks and trees which they worship.

Foreign missionaries were expelled by the Burma government in 1966, but about 1,000 native missionaries work to reach the people with the gospel, particularly the tribal peoples. The country, cut off from surrounding nations by a horseshoe ring of mountains, is one of the most isolated nations in Asia.

## Group seeks city's change through 'faith in action'

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — A group of men hope to change the reputation of New Orleans by permeating the city's "seedbed" of evil with the gospel.

Public housing projects, often seen as the source of crime in New Orleans, are the target of Faith in Action, an organization with a strategy to "win the city to Christ."

"New Orleans has a bad reputation around the nation with many people. We'd like to see the whole image of the city changed," said Marshall Truehill, Faith in Action president and a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. "We'd like to see New Orleans come under the lordship of Jesus Christ."

"Working in the projects, we can make an impact on the whole city, because the housing projects are the seedbed of most of the society illnesses of New Orleans."

Members of the Faith in Action team work in seven housing projects. All but two have studied at New Orleans Seminary.

Faith in Action has been effective because "almost all of us grew up in the housing projects, and those who didn't live close to them," said Truehill. The people to whom they

minister know them personally, and they do not have to cross cultural barriers.

Another advantage is the team not only meets the people's spiritual needs, but it also meets their physical needs as well.

Faith in Action's strategy to lead the city to Christ is called "Project New Orleans." It includes nine major areas of need — beautification, crime prevention, drug abuse prevention/counseling, education, family services, personal financial planning, public relations with the outer community, recreation, and skills development/job services.

"We initially had 10 areas," said Truehill. "Number 10 was evangelism."

But we took it out of the flow chart, because we want it to permeate through each area.

"Our bottom line is to see (people) have a life-changing experience. We can meet all of the society's needs that can be met, but if we don't lead them to the Lord, then there's no change."

Howard, who grew up in the project where he ministers, began a Bible study in his mother's home in November 1986.





## Check added to Robinson St. fund

Tom Copeland, front right, presents a check in the amount of \$116,874.47 to Aubrey Boone, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, to be added to Robinson Street Baptist Church's Trust Fund with the Foundation. This makes the total value of the fund \$591,874.47. The income will be used to benefit Mississippi College, The Baptist Children's Village, Crestwood Baptist Center, and the Mississippi Baptist Student Union. Other members of the committee pictured are James White; Eugene Cox; Jarmon Smith; James Allen, pastor; Bill Walls; Gus Jordan; Frances Walls; and Robert Wells.

## State leads in study awards

NASHVILLE — The Mississippi Baptist Convention led states with 150,000-600,000 resident church members in the number of study course awards earned for 1986-87, according to statistics compiled by the Sunday School Board's church study course records office.

With 42,890 study course awards earned, Mississippi increased its awards status by 2,922, ranking seventh in the SBC in the size of increase in awards over the previous year.

Hinds-Madison Association ranked 13th among the top 25 SBC associations with 4,999 awards.

Pineview Church, Hattiesburg, led churches in the state in the number of study course awards received with 641, while First Church, Jackson, was second with 615. North Greenwood Church, Greenwood, was third with 510.

Texas led all states in total church study course awards with 90,736, a gain of 17 percent over 1985-86.

First Church, Henderson, Texas, led all SBC churches in awards with 3,887.

For the year, the number of persons enrolled in the study course system rose 16 percent over last year, an increase of 140,555 to 1,018,675.

## Devotional

### Celebrate love . . . parents

By John L. Walker

What is your first recollection of someone saying to you, "I love you?" Likely, it is the memory of your parents telling you that they loved you. Let's think just a minute about what they probably meant.



Walker

were glad we were part of their family. They appreciated and accepted us as the person we were. Our individual characteristics met with their approval; we were not expected to be someone else.

(4) "We love you, so you should love." Realizing how important it is to love and to be loved, they were setting before us the right example.

The gracious, caring love of our parents is exceeded only by the unconditional love of God for each of us. The writer of the First Epistle of John said, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God . . ." (I John 1:3a). "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). The apostle Paul spoke of God's love, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Our parents love us because we are their children. Our heavenly Father loves us because it is his nature. The question to which we must all respond is the one Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?"

Jesus told us how to love the Lord, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." He also told us how to love others, ". . . as I have loved you." May we strive faithfully to honor the love of those who love us.

John L. Walker is pastor, First, Lucedale.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

### Southern Baptist leaders

In a television interview with Bill Moyers, Judge Paul Pressler, chief architect of the fundamentalist takeover of the Southern Baptist Convention, said the only question in the current controversy is, "What is the Bible?"

How wrong can a judge be! Granted the importance of the Bible, an even more critical question for Southern Baptists today is, "Where is the spirit of Jesus Christ in the controversy?" For what will it profit Southern Baptists if, in establishing the inerrancy of the Bible, we lose the spirit of humility of Jesus Christ?

Who can conceive of Jesus' use of political means to establish his position? Would Jesus seek to be elected president of a denominational organization in order to use the power of his position to gain control of the organization?

The Lord must be grieved with the political shenanigans of Southern Baptists. His grief must change into holy wrath when his children claim the leadership of the Holy Spirit in their warring with each other. Do we believe the Lord was inerrant when speaking to his disciples of how the heathen lord it over one another, he said, "But among you it is quite different. Anyone wanting to be a leader among you must be your servant" (Matt. 20:26 The Living Bible).

Who among us is servant enough to be a Southern Baptist leader today?

Southern Baptists' priorities are truly out of focus today. The heart of our faith is not a book, not even the Bible, but a person, the Lord Jesus Christ. The true measure of our orthodoxy is not how high we hold the Bible in our profession but how high we exalt Jesus Christ in our living. It is not the book we clutch to our hearts but the person who lives in our hearts that finally matters.

C. R. Daley  
Route 1, Box 225  
Newington, GA  
30446

### Thanks for conference

Editor:

Just a word to publicly commend those people who were involved in putting together the Youth Evangelism Conference this past December in Jackson. This conference was fantastic! The speaker was very effective in relating to youth, and the variety of people and types of ministry during this conference was excellent.

This past summer I worked at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly as a teacher during the youth conferences, and Mississippi has some outstanding youth. I was encouraged to see and talk to many of these youth at the Youth Evangelism Conference that I had met this summer. I just want to thank God for those people who are interested enough in the youth of Mississippi to provide these programs and types of ministries for the youth

to help them grow and mature in the Lord.

It is my prayer that the youth directors and youth leaders in Mississippi will continue to lead our youth in the way of the Lord, and that these types of programs for the youth such as the Youth Evangelism Conference will be provided and available for our children.

Debra Pratt  
Tate Street Baptist Church  
Corinth, Mississippi

### The gambling ship

Editor:

I have just finished reading your editorial on the gambling ship coming to Mississippi. I am outraged and appalled at such tactics these so-called "lobbyists" are using. Also, as a registered Mississippi voter I do not appreciate the fact that these legislators took time off from their jobs that we elected them to do to go gambling. I feel that they should not allow themselves to be courted by these people whose ultimate goal is to get gambling into Mississippi.

I appreciate your bringing this to our attention, and I hope you will continue to tell others what is going on in our state. I intend to call the Capitol and protest this. I have already called my representative from this district. I am going to bring it to the attention of my fellow church members and every registered voter I come in contact with. I also agree we need to do something about this. Thank you for letting us know about this.

Mrs. Sue Ford  
Hernando

### Vote against gambling

Editor:

This is to solicit the help of all who read the Baptist Record to try to prevent legalized gambling from becoming a part of the Mississippi scene. There are many people on the Gulf Coast who do not want it here or anywhere in our state. Please ask your senators and representatives to vote against legalized gambling. There are so many bad influences in our society already, why would you want to add another to those already present?

Lilly Pearl Flake  
Biloxi

### Lord still works visibly

Editor:

As the only child of a pastor, most of my life I have gone to meetings of state and Southern Baptist conventions. As I have for several years, I recently took off from my state job to attend the 1987 Mississippi Baptist Convention — and as I have for as long as I can remember, I met our Lord there. His presence was obvious in every element of the meeting. In the time since, however, I have been sur-

prised and disappointed to hear several pastors say they found it "dull," indicating it could be "Baptist" and "interesting" only if there were controversy and dissension, quite the opposite of what we are told in Galatians 5:20-21 is Christian behavior.

Frankly, I have never attended a smoother meeting of any state convention — a fact I attribute at least as much to the concerted prayer of the Lord's people across the state as to the excellent leadership of Dr. Gunn — and I found myself several times thanking my Lord that I live in Mississippi instead of the other state in which about ten years ago I witnessed the majority of that body boo down a young man trying to speak to an issue he felt strongly about but with which the majority disagreed.

That was the same state that attempted at the concluding session of the convention meeting to "excommunicate" the churches that the majority of us BSU directors there were members of because of certain policies followed by our churches in attempts to reach and witness to every college student we encountered daily. There were, I am sure, some good speakers there; but my overriding memory will always be that horribly unChristian few moments when that young man was booed away from the platform. My pastor stood to say, "Brothers, we owe this young man an apology because this behavior is not of our Lord; and he, too, was booed down by that crowd."

I felt many things in those moments, none of them the presence of the Lord.

As I did often during our recent MBC meeting, I continue to thank the Lord that the serious problems disturbing the SBC currently have not marred our MBC.

Mary Ann Cooper  
Carthage

### Old hymnals needed

Editor:

Our rural church (Shiloh, Carroll Co.) is seeking to find a church interested in selling and/or donating copies of the Broadman Hymnal to us. We have need of about 50 copies.

We are aware that many churches no longer use the Broadman Hymnal and would appreciate an opportunity to put them in service again. By preference, our church still uses them in congregational worship.

Anyone wishing to reply to this request may contact me in Jackson at 354-6881 (day) or by writing to me at 244 Manchu Court, Jackson, MS 39209. Thank you for helping us publicize this.

Doug Warren, Pastor  
Shiloh Baptist Church,  
Carroll Assn.  
Vaiden, MS 39176

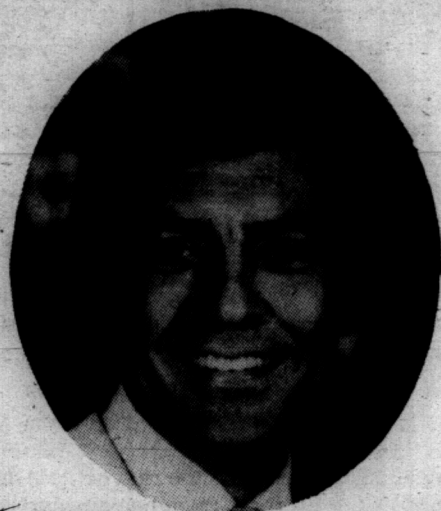
"The game of life is a game of boomerangs. Our thoughts, deeds and words return to us sooner or later with astounding accuracy."

— FLORENCE SCOVEL SHINN



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Ray Walker is the bass for the internationally known Jordanaire quartet. They do back-up work on recordings for major artists, and their voices have been heard on over 3 billion record sales. The Jordanaire have placed in the top ten vocal groups in the world for many years. At a seemingly inexhaustible pace, Ray works with youth groups, troubled parents as a counselor, youth seminars and college campuses as a speaker and Christian entertainer. He was named the "Best TV ad personality" by Nashville Magazine for many years. Ray and his wife, Marilyn, have six children and have been foster parents to 31 other children who have lived in their Nashville home.

## "MY GOD AND I"

- HE
- DO YOU KNOW THE SONG?
- THE END OF THE WAY
- THE LAST MILE OF THE WAY
- THANK GOD FOR JESUS HE'S MINE
- JESUS TOOK MY BURDEN
- MY GOD IS REAL
- HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
- SING AND BE HAPPY
- I LOVE THE LORD
- MY GOD AND I
- I'D RATHER HAVE JESUS
- PUT YOUR HAND IN THE HAND
- THE HALF I CANNOT TELL
- THE HALF HAS NEVER BEEN TOLD
- SING OH SING HIS PRAISES
- I'LL BE SOMEWHERE LISTENING
- OH, I WANT TO SEE HIM

## "IT IS NO SECRET WHAT GOD CAN DO"

- IT IS NO SECRET WHAT GOD CAN DO
- THERE IS A BALM IN GILEAD
- TAKE MY HAND PRECIOUS LORD
- WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN
- I WANT TO KNOW
- BECAUSE HE LIVES
- AMAZING GRACE
- HE SET ME FREE
- BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC
- THIS OLD HOUSE
- PEACE IN THE VALLEY
- HOW GREAT THOU ART
- WHERE COULD I GO?
- JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE
- HE'LL UNDERSTAND AND SAY "WELL DONE"
- PRECIOUS MEMORIES
- WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN

## "WONDERFUL WORDS OF LIFE"

- TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE
- WONDERFUL WORDS OF LIFE
- SONG OF WONDERFUL LOVE (Wonderful, Wonderful)
- EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING
- WE HAVE AN ANCHOR
- AM I NEARER TO HEAVEN TODAY
- WILL THERE BE ANY STARS
- FROM THE CROSS TO THE CROWN
- I'LL LIVE IN GLORY
- I'LL LIVE ON
- UPON THE BANKS OF JORDAN STOOD (All parts sung by Ray Walker)
- THERE IS A FOUNTAIN
- GLORY FOR ME
- BECAUSE HE LIVES
- JESUS IS ALL THE WORLD TO ME
- WHERE THE ROSES NEVER FADE
- SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY
- HEAVEN
- WHISPERING HOPE

## "A TRIBUTE TO FANNY J. CROSBY"

(ALL SONGS WRITTEN BY THIS BLIND LADY WHO LIVED TO BE 95 YEARS OLD)

- BLESSED ASSURANCE
- ALL THE WAY MY SAVIOR LEADS ME
- A WONDERFUL SAVIOR
- JESUS IS TENDERLY CALLING
- I AM THINE, OH LORD
- HIDE ME, OH MY SAVIOR
- JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS
- TO THE WORK
- RESCUE THE PERISHING
- TO GOD BE THE GLORY
- CLOSE TO THEE
- PASS ME NOT
- HOLD THOU MY HAND
- TAKE THE WORLD, BUT GIVE ME JESUS
- I SHALL KNOW HIM
- REDEEMED
- WILL YOU COME?
- 'TIS THE BLESSED HOUR OF PRAYER
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# Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

## Five Sundays in two weeks

When early on January 7 I peeped through my bedroom window and saw an icy world that looked like Fairyland, I feared my plane schedules were smashed. And I was right. Sitting by the fire in the candlelight would have been fun had I not been worried about the cancelled 4:30 p.m. flight, and the cancelled 8 p.m. flight.

W. D. had bought a new purple alarm clock, though, and it woke us next morning at 4:30. The 6:25 plane did leave on time. We landed in Dallas in the snow. A crew member on my Los Angeles flight was late because slick streets made it difficult for her to drive from the hotel to the airport. Then, as we were ready for take-off, the pilot announced that we were pulling back up to the gate, for he'd discovered something wrong with the plane. By then, I knew I'd missed my 11 a.m. flight to Tokyo, and that the other six members of my travel team had gone on without me.

Marty Melvin, tour agent, met me at L.A. at 11:15 and said, "If you'll hurry, I think we can get you on the noon plane for Japan." By "hurry" he meant for us to run the two blocks from Delta to Japan Air Lines, and up a steep flight of steps. Panic shook me when Marty could not find my passport. Then he remembered he'd left it on top of the change machine in the next room. With my suitcase in a buggy, he beat me to the check-in desk and as I ran by, he handed me my boarding pass.

Just before I reached Tokyo 11 hours later, a storm over the Pacific set the

plane to bumping and swooping, so much so that I had the feeling a good many people in there were praying. Once it got so bad that the flight attendants had to sit down in the aisles.

At the Tokyo International Airport, my friends were waiting — Adeline Erickson from North Dakota, Charles and Clare Gebelein from Ohio, Frank and Peggy Giunta from Missouri, and Joan Peterson from Florida. It was a bit ironic that even Adeline from North Dakota had less trouble with the ice than I had in Jackson. (Actually, it was Atlanta's sleet that delayed me.)

Around 1 a.m., Sunday morning, January 9, our taxis pulled up in front of the New World Hotel, Kowloon, Hong Kong. Christmas lights still twinkled, on trees beside the hotel, reflected in giant metallic mobiles and emblazoned on the fronts of buildings. In most of the Orient, they would be up until the Chinese New Year.

The seven of us were a volunteer mission team, visiting Southeast Asia to study the work of Every Home For Christ, and where possible, to participate in its distribution of tracts, Bibles, and Bible correspondence courses. EHC, which has distributed Christian literature in 110 countries and now has offices in 53 of them, is cooperating with the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, in its Bold Mission Thrust to tell the Good News of Jesus Christ to all the world by the year 2,000.

One Sunday was all the time we'd have in Hong Kong; jet lag claimed

most of it. In late afternoon, we met with Timothy Yeung, EHC director for HK, and several of his employees and volunteer workers, for worship and fellowship.

Afterward, they celebrated our visit with a nine-course Chinese meal: jellyfish and vegetable rolls (I don't like jellyfish); prawns and chili sauce; beef on hot plate; shark's fin soup with chicken; diced chicken with walnuts (this was marvelous); barbecued Peking duck; stewed ham and cabbage; dumpling; and sweet bean paste balls with sugar on top. When it was over, I felt so stuffed I wondered if I'd have to roll down the stairs and into the street.

The Hong Kong Every Home Crusade, founded in 1962, ministers to the local people and now ministers too, where possible, to the people of mainland China. Also the Hong Kong office, through the Worldwide Chinese Literature Crusade, seeks to minister to Chinese in other countries, and has branch offices in Macau, the Philippines, Thailand, Burma, Sarawak, Indonesia, Canada, the United States, Brazil, and the United Kingdom.

The next Saturday, January 16, was like a Sunday, because I went to church in Kathmandu, Nepal. The working populace there takes off Saturdays instead of Sundays, and hence the church services on Saturdays. Sunday, January 17, I attended an evangelical church that meets in a home in Bangkok, Thailand. I guess you'd say I ate "dinner on the grounds," for they served lunch in the courtyard of the home — a dish that



Volunteers (these and others) from local Chinese churches cooperate with the Every Home Crusade in Hong Kong, to join in prayer mobilization and to distribute Bibles and other Christian literature. Timothy Yeung, second from left, front row, is national director, Hong Kong EHC.

combined cauliflower, chicken, and noodles.

Because of crossing the international date line, I lived through two Sundays, both dated January 24, 1988. The first one I spent at the Narita Nikko Hotel in Tokyo, hearing a report from the Tokyo EHC director, Ken McVety, and trying to sleep a bit after being out of bed for more than 24 hours. The second one I spent clearing customs in Los Angeles and flying from there to Jackson.

Also I spent time that last Sunday thanking God for his promise in Isaiah

55: "As the rain cometh down, and the snow, from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: so shall my word be . . . it shall not return unto me void; but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

In coming issues I plan to tell a bit about what I learned concerning the distribution of the Word in Southeast Asia.

## Bankruptcy no excuse

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (EP) Debtors may pay a tithe to their church, even when filing bankruptcy, Judge Laurence Howard of Michigan's U.S. Bankruptcy Court has ruled. In response to a couple who had asked to be permitted to

continue tithing even though they were filing bankruptcy, Howard ruled that to deny them their request would violate their constitutional right to free exercise of religion.

# SCRAPBOOK

## Time

It's a cracking street that once was a gravel lane,  
A sapling tree that becomes a bold sturdy oak,  
An open field that holds a glass skyscraper,  
A wildflower becomes a rose garden, and yet, our eyes only see the changes  
in our closest friends.  
Small concerns multiply into financial giants.  
And it seems to us it's just happened overnight.  
So the years slip away from us, and we seem to be just a spectator to all  
the changes before our very eyes.

—Tex McPherson

## In the winters of life

As I am writing this . . .  
The two potted plants before me  
Encourage and all but speak —  
A lovely sight to see.

Given at Christmastime  
To express their friendship and love  
For every day of the year,  
Must have been inspired from above.

To watch the swelling buds open  
On violets from a friend  
As they form a circle of loveliness,  
Reminds me of friendships that never end.

The pot filled with brown bulbs  
Holds fast a secret all its own.  
The green sprouts get taller each day  
While the blooms have not yet been shown.

The violets, a velvet bouquet in purple,  
To brighten a cloudy day.  
The brown bulbs have beauty within  
To be revealed along the way.

In springs' sunshine and rain  
Violets and bulbs grow best.  
But it's in the winters of life  
That friends grow best.

—Ruby Singley  
Columbia

## Childish fantasy

Snowflakes glisten on the pine  
Thoughts are rushing through my mind.  
A coldness penetrates the air  
As I sit by the window, and begin to stare  
Childhood memories, though long behind,  
Are still so fresh within my mind.  
The beauty of ground covered in white —  
Words cannot describe such a sight.

The little child comes out in me —  
Jumping and running I want to be.  
I want to forget I'm old and gray:  
I just want to go outside and play.  
Enjoy the beauty of the day —  
For tomorrow I'll have to pay.  
I'll be so stiff and my bones so sore,  
I'll pray, dear Lord, don't let it  
Snow any more!

—June Sharpe  
Philadelphia

## God gives us winters

The gray of winter is upon the land  
Cold weather has seeped into our bones again.  
Frost is white upon the flats and hills;  
Nothing is stirring; nature is standing still.  
Then she blows her mighty breath, and there are sleet and snow.  
There're winter problems everywhere I go.  
As I sit by the fire I begin to nod,  
And in my stillness I think of God.  
Though winter is upon us, he is in control;  
Reassured, I do not mind the cold.

—Ruth N. Crager  
State Line



# Changes are proposed in bylaws of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union

Listed below are proposed changes, as recommended by the state Woman's Missionary Union Executive Board, to be made at the WMU annual meeting, March 14-15.

Bylaws of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union state: "The bylaws may be amended by two-thirds vote at any annual meeting provided that the proposed amendment has been published in two issues of the Baptist Record at least one month before the WMU Convention and has also been submitted in writing to the Executive Board at its last semi-annual meeting. Such proposed amendment must be presented on the first day of the annual WMU meeting, action on same being deferred until a subsequent session."

## Article III — Relationships

New bylaws — Section 3. Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, recognizing the autonomy of area associational and church Woman's Missionary Union organizations, shall cooperate on each level to achieve unity of purpose and collective action.

Old bylaws — Section 3. Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, recognizing the autonomy of district associational and church Woman's Missionary Union organizations, shall cooperate on each level to achieve unity of purpose and collective action.

## Article V — Officers

New bylaws — Section 1. The officers shall be a president and a secretary/historian. (Rest of section 1 unchanged.)

Old bylaws — Section 1. The officers shall be president, vice-president, recording secretary and associate recording secretary.

## Article VI — Nominations and Elections

New bylaws — Section 1. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of the area coordinators.

Old bylaws — Section 1. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of the district directors.

New bylaws — Section 2. At the annual meeting the secretary/historian shall call a meeting of the Nominating Committee for organization, at which time a chairman, a co-chairman and a secretary shall be elected.

Old bylaws — Section 2. At the annual meeting the recording secretary shall call a meeting of the Nominating Committee for organization, at which time a chairman, a co-chairman and a secretary shall be elected.

New bylaws — Section 4. The Nominating Committee shall elect the following nominees each year: president and secretary/historian.

Old bylaws — Section 4. The Nominating Committee shall elect the following nominees each year: president, vice-president, recording secretary, and associate recording secretary.

## Article VIII — The Executive Board

New bylaws — Section 1. The membership of the Executive Board shall be the officers, area coordinators, associate area coordinators and ten members-at-large. The tenure of office for area coordinators and associate area coordinators shall not exceed five successive one-year terms. One year shall elapse before one would be eligible for election to the board except as an officer. The

tenure of office of members-at-large shall be one, two or three year terms. One year shall elapse before one would be eligible for election to the previously held office. Area coordinators, associate area coordinators and members-at-large shall be elected at the annual meeting. The term of office shall begin at the final adjournment of the annual meeting. The officers and executive director-treasurer of the Union shall hold like positions on the Executive Board. The professional staff shall be ex-officio members without vote.

Old bylaws — Section 1. The membership of the Executive Board shall be the officers, district directors and district associate directors, whose tenure of office shall not exceed five years, and one year shall elapse before one would be eligible for election to the previously held office. The president, vice-president, executive director-treasurer, recording secretary and associate recording secretary of the Union shall hold like positions on the Executive Board. The professional staff shall be ex-officio members without vote.

New bylaws — add Section 10. Should a vacancy occur in an area of office, the area nominating committee shall present to the executive director-treasurer or president a nominee who will be elected by polling the Executive Board. Should a member-at-large be unable to complete her term, the president in conference with the executive director-treasurer shall select a nominee who will be elected by polling the Executive Board.

Old bylaws contain no Section 10.

# Altus Newell will lecture in Clinton

Altus Newell, a Meridian native and pastor of Dawson Memorial Church, Birmingham, will be featured speaker for the Evangelism Lectures scheduled at Mississippi College, Feb. 15-17.



Newell, a 1966 MC graduate, will speak during chapel services at 10 a.m. in Chester E. Swor Auditorium in Nelson Hall Feb. 15 and 17. The services are open to the public.

In addition to the chapel programs, Newell will also speak in various classes of the Department of Religion and Philosophy during the three-day period, according to John G. McCall, head of the Department of Religion and Philosophy and lectureship coordinator.

Newell moved to Dawson Memorial Baptist church this past year after serving since 1984 as president of the Ruschlikon Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

While at Mississippi College, Newell lettered three years in varsity football, was president of the Student Body Association, and served as state president of the Baptist Student Union. He was an All-State football player at Meridian High.

"Winning isn't everything — but wanting to win is."

— VINCE LOMBARDI

"A friend is one before whom I may think aloud."

— RALPH WALDO EMERSON

# Former missionary to China, Juanita Byrd Huang, dies

Mrs. Juanita Byrd Huang, 83, resident of the Betha Baptist Home, Darlington, S.C., wife of Claude B. Huang of Fort Lee, N.J., died Jan. 22 at the Betha Home.

Funeral services were conducted at 2:30 p.m. Jan. 24 in First Baptist Church, Mount Olive, Miss., the town of her birth and the church of her childhood. A memorial service was conducted at Betha Baptist Home by the chaplain, Edward L. Byrd, former pastor of First Church, Florence, S.C., conducted the service in Mississippi.

Mrs. Huang was a graduate of Mississippi Woman's College (now William Carey College) of Mississippi College, and of Vanderbilt University. She studied the Chinese language at North China Union Language School in Beijing (Peking), China.

Mrs. Huang was a missionary to China under appointment of the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, going to China in 1929. She taught English literature in the University of Shanghai.

After Japan's occupation of China and following the Pearl Harbor event, Mrs. Huang, along with other American citizens, was placed in a concentration camp. After eleven months she was repatriated in the

first group of U.S. citizens on the Swedish ship, the Gripsholm. In 1957, Mrs. Huang and her husband came to the U.S. to live.

Mrs. Huang was a member of the First Baptist Church of Florence, S.C. at the time of her death.

Mrs. Huang was the daughter of the late J. E. Byrd (for 35 years state Sunday School secretary for the Mississippi Baptist Convention) and the late Mrs. Leona McNeil Byrd of Mt. Olive, Miss. She is survived by her husband, Claude Huang; two brothers, Edward L. Byrd of Florence, S.C., and Hugh M. Byrd of Staunton, Va.; four sisters, Corinne Byrd of Waycross, Ga., Annie Ward Byrd and Valois Byrd of Nashville, Tenn.; and Mrs. J. N. Ball of Baton Rouge, La.



## New church in Petal

Area residents have organized Lynn Ray Road Church, presently holding services at the International Checker Hall of Fame located on Lynn Ray Road in Petal. Bill Partridge is pastor and Emmett Boone, co-pastor. Charles Walker is music director with George Maddox, assistant music director. Morning services will begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and worship at 11. Evening services will begin with Church Training at 6 p.m. and worship at 7 p.m.

Sunday, January 31 was dedication with dinner on the grounds and afternoon singing.

# Hinds-Madison to sponsor Family Enrichment Night

Hinds-Madison Association's family ministry is sponsoring a Family Enrichment Night, Feb. 15, at Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson. Charles Petty will be speaking from 7-9 p.m. on the theme, "Climbing the

Ladder of Success and Taking Your Family With You." Tommy and Carol Joy Sparkman from Parkway Church will be giving a mini-concert. The number to call is 354-8701 for reservations for Preschool Childcare.



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# George Harris will nominate Carey to celebrate homecoming Jackson as SBC president

By Toby Druin

DALLAS (BP) — George Harris, pastor of Castle Hills First Church, San Antonio, told the Baptist Standard, newsjournal for Texas Baptists, that he will nominate Richard Jackson for president of the Southern Baptist Convention when the convention meets in the Alamo city June 14-16.

Jackson, Harris said, would be "good for fundamentalists, good for moderates, good for all."

Harris, acknowledging he has been identified with the conservative group in the SBC controversy but denying he has ever been with them politically, said he feels Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Church, and a loser to Adrian Rogers for the presidency last year in St. Louis, is the man to "bridge the gap" and "end the feuding" in the controversy-plagued denomination.

Jackson, contacted by the Standard at his church in Phoenix, said simply, "That's fine with me," when told of Harris' intention.

He said he had talked with Harris about a month ago and Harris had asked if he thought he would be nominated again.

"When I said I probably would (be nominated), he talked about the possibility of his doing it," Jackson said. "Nobody knows me better than George — we've been friends for more than 30 years — so I said if he knew me as well as he does and is still willing to do it, then it would be okay."

Harris told Standard Editor Presnell H. Wood, "I plan to nominate Richard Jackson. In the past I have been identified with the fundamentalist movement because of my conservative stand theologically."

"I have not, however, been

associated with the political fundamentalist group. Neither am I associated with the moderate political group."

"In an effort to bring peace and, hopefully, healing to our convention, I feel I would like to lead the way in recommending Richard Jackson, who has been identified by some as a moderate."

"I have known Richard for 35 years. We have differed on occasions, but I have never known him to do anything except what he thought was right. I feel like it is time that those who are supposedly on different sides to take a step toward unifying our hearts in a common goal, and I believe Richard is the man to do that. And I believe I am the man to nominate him."

Harris said Jackson is a biblical conservative who is sound on the Scriptures.

"I have no doubt he believes in the verbal inspiration of the word of God," he said. "Theologically he is a strict Calvinist, pre-millennialist, and a soul-winner."

Harris said Jackson "will not have to be worried about having to pay back favors and will be fair to all. He will be controlled by no group. I have never known him to be legalistic or punitive and unkind for vengeance's sake."

Jackson is a role model of how to build a solid church, he said, noting the North Phoenix church was averaging about 600 in Sunday School when Jackson went there as pastor in 1968. It now averages almost 5,000 and it "has not been built on frills or fads," said Harris.

North Phoenix baptized 1,206 in 1987 and gave \$1,062,000 to the Cooperative

Program, both figures believed to be tops in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Jackson has been nominated three previous times for the presidency — by James T. Draper Jr. of Euless, Texas in 1977, by John Sullivan of Shreveport, La., in 1980 and by Charles Redmond of Sulphur Springs, Texas, in 1987. He got 40 percent of the vote last year in losing to incumbent Adrian Rogers. The previous year in Atlanta Jackson nominated Amarillo pastor Winfred Moore, who also lost to Rogers.

The native Texan, who was pastor of First Church, Sulphur Springs before moving to Phoenix, has been considered the likely nominee of moderates. He was guest speaker at a rally sponsored by moderate leader John Baugh of Houston at San Marcos last fall.

"In the last 10 years I have nominated Bailey Smith (in 1981) who was in one camp; Winfred Moore who was in another; was willing to be nominated in 1980 to prove I belonged to nobody and last year because I felt it was the right thing to do."

If he should be elected — "If God should so choose," Jackson said, his approach "would be to uphold the Baptist way of doing things — to emphasize the authority of Scripture, the competency of the soul before God, the priesthood of the believer, the autonomy of the local church and separation of church and state."

"True Baptists hold all of these things," Jackson said. "I would simply champion the time-honored, God-blessed way of doing things."

Toby Druin is associate editor of the Standard.

## Carey to celebrate homecoming

William Carey College will celebrate Homecoming '88 Saturday, Feb. 6 on the Hattiesburg campus. Festivities will begin at 10 a.m. in Crawford Hall with the 50th Year Reunion of the Class of 1938. General registration and fellowship will be at 10:30 a.m. in Wilkes Dining Hall.

The homecoming luncheon begins at noon in Wilkes Dining Hall. The luncheon includes recognition of the Class of 1938, as well as presentation of the '88 homecoming court.

The Outstanding Alumnus Award

will be honored followed by a choral performance. Included in the ceremonies is the recognition of three retiring Carey faculty members: Mrs. Grace Smith, Mrs. Georgiann Holliman, and William Clawson. Tommy King, a Carey graduate and current director of special services/psychology for the Columbia Public Schools, is the featured speaker.

Homecoming '88 concludes with the Carey basketball teams hosting Belhaven College.

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## Baptists respond after mine explosion

DALLAS (BP) — Soon after a Jan. 25 explosion and cave-in at one of Mexico's largest coal mining operations trapped more than 100 workers, local Baptists were on the scene ministering to grieving and anxious family members.

As many as 140 miners were thought to be inside the mine when the blast occurred. By Thursday morning, Jan. 28, 39 fatalities were confirmed, and an estimated 45 people were hospitalized in medical centers throughout the region. After three days of searching, rescuers believed they had recovered all of the trapped miners.

The disaster took place at the Cuatro y Media (Four and a Half) Mine near Esperanzas in the northern

Mexico state of Coahuila, about 75 miles southwest of Eagle Pass, Texas.

Jack Calk, director of missions in Del Rio-Uvalde Baptist Association, received information on Baptist response to the disaster through Rogelio Guel, his counterpart in Coahuila Baptist Association. Coahuila Association lies within the area along the 890-mile Texas-Mexico border served by the Rio Grande River Ministry.

No Southern Baptist missionaries currently are assigned to the state of Coahuila.

Guel and Abelardo Solis, pastor of Primera Baptist Church in nearby Nueva Rosita, were at a training institute outside of the area when the blast and cave-in occurred. However,

they arrived within 24 hours after the tragedy to offer comfort to families whose loved ones were still trapped.

Primera Baptist Church of Nueva Rosita established a shelter for families during the rescue effort, and the church is acting as a temporary clearinghouse for blankets and food.

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## USSR churches experience revival

LENINGRAD, USSR — Seven churches in the Northwest Association of Baptist Churches (All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists — AUCECB) held special revival services during 1987. "It has been a year full of spiritual blessings," according

to Sergei Nicolaiev, Association Superintendent. "These seven churches participated in week-long evangelistic and spiritual growth meetings. The results have been so encouraging. Everywhere there were great victories."



## Arkansas prays for 10,000; falls only 500 short

By Eric Miller

MANAUS, Brazil (BP) — Arkansas and Brazilian Baptists fell only 500 short of a prayed-for goal of 10,000 professions of faith in Christ in 10 days as they went about presenting the gospel to a whole city in Brazil in late fall.

Nearly 200 Arkansas laymen helped Brazilian Baptists hand out 250,000 to 300,000 New Testaments in Manaus in October and November, visited door to door, distributed the last of 3.5 million tracts, sang in schools, and preached in churches, parks, and on a beach, said Jack Bledsoe, a trustee of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board who reported on the effort during a December trustee committee meeting.

Arkansas and Brazilian Baptists also conducted a three-night crusade in a soccer stadium with Brazil's best-known evangelist, Nilson Fanihi, who is a Baptist.

Bledsoe said he tells young preachers in Arkansas, "If you're tired of preaching every Sunday and seeing people sit there and not responding to the invitation — if you're tired of going week after week, month after month without ever going to your baptism, let us send you overseas, and

you'll have people saved every time you preach."

He quoted missionary Luther Williams as saying that in 10 days Arkansas Baptists had advanced Baptist work in Manaus by 20 years.

A group of men drinking beer on a Saturday afternoon put away their beer and empty cans when Baptists began witnessing and reading Scripture. Each of the men made a profession of faith in Christ, Bledsoe said.

"Their hearts are open, and they're hungry for the word Bledsoe said of Brazilians.

In the hotel where they were staying, laymen led the hotel manager to Christ. The manager then called together his staff. The laymen preached, and most of the staff members made professions of faith, Bledsoe said.

Use of the media, including television, radio, newspapers and billboards, helped promote the 10-day crusade, titled "The Solution Is Jesus," said Glendon Grober, director of the Brotherhood department of the Arkansas Convention.

Eric Miller writes for the FMB.

## Just for the Record



Georgetown Church, Georgetown, held a note burning ceremony, Dec. 27, for the retirement of the debt on its fellowship hall. Their building campaign, "Building Tomorrow Together," began on Nov. 9, 1986 and was completed in 55 weeks. The total cost was \$82,500.

"Georgetown Baptist Church would like to publicly thank God for this victory and for answering our many prayers," says Joe Barber III, pastor.

Pictured, from left, are Barber; Robert Windom, building chairman; Buddy Lowery, chairman of deacons.

## Jackson County Association will sponsor conference for women

Jackson County Association is sponsoring a third annual conference for today's woman, to be held Feb. 26-27 at First Church, Pascagoula.

With the theme, "Woman, Disciplined and Growing," the meeting will begin at 6 p.m. Feb. 26 and at 8:30 a.m. Feb. 27. Registration deadline is Monday, Feb. 22. A registration fee of \$7.50 is required to help cover costs, including speakers' travel, and lunch for those attending.

The inspirational speaker will be Mrs. Marjorie Kelly of Jackson, author, former missionary to Israel, a frequent conference leader and speaker, and wife of the executive director, Miss. Baptist Convention Board.

Guest vocalist will be Gwen Williams, musician and speaker serving with the Home Mission Board at Grace Church, New Orleans.

Conference leaders will include B.

J. Dean, San Antonio, Texas, homemaker, writer, conference leader, and co-leader of marriage enrichment seminars, Sunnye Jones, Baton Rouge, certified counselor, recording artist, seminar and conference leader, member of the SBC Executive Committee, and co-leader of marriage enrichment seminars; and Linda Donnell and Carol Simmons, Hattiesburg, co-authors of *Bloom*, a soon-to-be-published book on the Christian woman's approach to health and attractiveness, with 25 years of combined teaching experience and over 20 years of Christian youth work.

Sunnys Jones will conduct a special conference for ministers/staff wives.

To register, send name and address and \$7.50 to Jackson County Baptist Association, Box 1726, Pascagoula, MS 39567.

## C. Weatherford's mother dies

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Doris Sansing Weatherford, 90, mother of Carolyn Weatherford, national executive director of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, died Jan. 26 in an Arcadia hospital.

Mrs. Weatherford was born in Union, Miss., Oct. 22, 1897, and had lived in Florida for more than 60 years. She was a member of First Church, Frostproof, for 60 years and for the last two years was a member of Calvary Church, Arcadia.

Survivors include three children, Parks Weatherford of Winter Park, Fla., Carolyn Weatherford, and Eileen Hall of Arcadia; a sister, Martha Lee Espey of Collinsville, Miss.; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The family has asked that memorials be made to the WMU Centennial Thank Offering; Calvary Church, Arcadia, building fund; and First Church, Frostproof, building fund.

## Hopper installed at Ruschlikon

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland (BP) — John David Hopper was installed Jan. 14 as the eighth president of the International Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Because the faculty wanted the installation to be a "family worship occasion" rather than a formal academic affair, Buckner Fanning, pastor of Hopper's home church, Trinity, in San Antonio, was asked to speak. One of Hopper's friends from the church, Joseph Brake, sang during the service. Knud Wumpelmann, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation, presided.

Hopper, who was elected to the presidency in October last year, has been a Southern Baptist missionary in Europe since 1965.

## Staff Changes

Georgetown Church, Georgetown, has called Scott Adkins as its minister of music and youth. Adkins has served



at Immanuel Church, Greenwood, and at Bethany Church, Prentiss. He is presently a music major at Mississippi College.

In December, Adkins received the "Congressional Award" from Rep. Wayne Dowdy for his participation in church, community, and scholarship endeavors. His father, Sonny Adkins, is pastor of First Church, New Hebron. Joe Barber III is pastor of Georgetown Church.

C. Neal McReynolds is the new professor of biology at Blue Mountain College.

Cross Roads Church, Neshoba Association, has called John Yancey as pastor. He has served churches in Winston and Lauderdale Associations. Yancey is working toward his degree of social divinity of pastoral ministries at New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife, Jane, have one married son.

Douglas McDonald has been called as pastor of First Church, Sartartia, effective Jan. 3. McDonald has been



interim pastor of the church since Oct. 18. He has previously served as interim-pastor of churches in the Delta and around Oxford. He is married to the former Wilma Keith and they live near Anguilla.

Spring Hill Church (Marshall) has called Jimmy T. Smith Jr. as its pastor. He began his ministry Dec. 27. Smith goes to Spring Hill Church from Pleasant Valley Church in Simpson.

James Lewis has recently been called as pastor of 15th Avenue Church, Meridian. He and his family moved from Tate Street Church, Corinth, where he served as interim pastor and minister of youth. His wife is the former Kathy Pope of Ridgeland. They have two children, Marc, 7, and Jamison, 5.

Mike Carroll has resigned the pastorate of Lula Church, Hinds County, to accept the call as pastor of First Church, Plantersville, Ala. He previously served as minister of education and youth at Cherry Park Church, Clinton, for three years.

Carroll and his wife, the former Juanita Proffitt, are natives of Columbus.

## Names in the News



Mrs. Irma Day, born Jan. 10, 1898, was recently presented a plaque recognizing her as the oldest active member of Big Creek Church, Wayne County.

Mrs. Day moved her church letter from Clara First Church on Jan. 11, 1953 to Big Creek Church. She has worked in WMU (where she is still a member), Vacation Bible School, and taught Sunday School.

The plaque was presented by Rex Ferguson, pictured, during the morning service. Ashley Freeman is pastor.

## Mrs. J. N. Barnette dies in Nashville

NASHVILLE (BP) — Edna Hamrick Hawkins Barnette, widow of Sunday School leader J.N. Barnette, died Friday, Jan. 22. She was 96.

Her husband was secretary of the Sunday School department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board from 1943 until his retirement in 1957.

Before moving to the Sunday School Board in 1927, Barnette was an associate Sunday School director for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. He died in 1965.

## Revival Dates

Southside, 800 Raymond Road, Jackson: Feb. 7-10; Keith Fordham, full-time evangelist for 13 years, uses his "Pal," Homer, a dummy, to help teach children and youth; Sunday services, 9:45 a.m., Bible study, 11 a.m., worship, 5:45 p.m., Church Training, and 7 p.m., worship; week day services, 7 p.m.; Donald N. Bozeman, pastor.

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# Carolyn says yes

(Continued from page 3)

vention. It is to the inclusion of everyone, not to the exclusion of any."

The test of time has already proven that WMU does not take its relationships lightly, she said. "Rallying the cause of missions and coordinating those efforts through partnering relationships with other Southern Baptist agencies has remained important to WMU throughout its 100 years. We look forward, as we begin our second 100 years, to an even closer and more committed relationship with the

Home Mission Board."

She added, "We've been partners with them for 100 years. We're not about to love 'em and leave 'em now."

"The aging process has you firmly in its grasp if you never get the urge to throw a snowball."

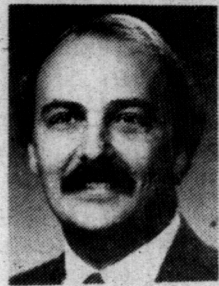
— DOUG LARSON

"In the long run the pessimist may be proven right, but the optimist has a better time on the trip."

— DANIEL L. REARDON

## Conference to train adults to disciple youths

Christian growth and faith sharing for young people is the aim of a conference to be held at Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, Feb. 16-17.



Bradford

Two levels of training will be offered, basic and advanced.

Leader for the conference will be Curt Bradford, youth specialist in

youth Church Training with the Sunday School Board. He will be assisted by Marti Richardson of Montgomery, a former Home Mission Board missionary.

Cost of the conference is \$17 for lodging and three meals, plus an additional \$35 for DiscipleYouth I materials or \$45 for Youth II materials. A spouse is \$10 more.

The program is jointly sponsored by the Evangelism and Church Training Departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

For reservations, write Robin Nichols, Church Training Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

## Baptist colleges report enrollment increases

NASHVILLE (BP) — Dire predictions of declining enrollments failed to materialize once again at most Southern Baptist colleges and universities.

Enrollment figures for the 1987 fall semester show 101,159 attended Baptist junior and senior colleges, a 3.8 percent increase over 1986 totals. According to figures released to the Southern Baptist Education Commission, 39 of the 51 junior and senior colleges reported increases ranging from 0.2 to 46.4 percent. The enrollment percentages include both full-time and part-time students in credit courses. The figures do not reflect students taking non-credit classes.

Missouri Baptist College in St. Louis

reported the largest increase among senior colleges (37.2 percent) while Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, Ga., had the largest increase among junior colleges (46.4). The increases at both institutions, however, were in part-time students.

In terms of total enrollment, Baylor University in Waco, Texas, remains the largest Southern Baptist college with 11,656 students. Mississippi College is seventh with 3,448 students.

Blue Mountain College has 312 students with an enrollment drop of 3 percent; William Carey College has an enrollment of 2,019 with an enrollment gain of .7 percent. MC enrollment is a drop of 3.1 percent.

## American Family Association names top porn advertisers

TUPELO, Miss. (EP) — Philip Morris/General Foods and RJR Nabisco are the top advertising sponsors of pornographic magazines, according to a study done by the American Family Association (AFA).

AFA studied companies supporting Playboy and Penthouse with advertising, and found that Philip Morris/General Foods placed 115 pages of advertising with those magazines in the year ending August of 1987. RJR Nabisco bought 92 pages during the same time period.

"At \$50,000 per page, Philip Morris/General Foods supplied these publications with \$5.75 million in one year, while RJR Nabisco spent \$4.6 million in advertising money to support the publications," said Don Wildmon, the United Methodist minister who serves as executive director of AFA. "It is ironic that these two companies, which depend so heavily on the family for their income, would spend more than \$10 million supporting two of the most anti-family publications in America."

## Mississippians are graduated from Mid-America

Of the 27 Dec. 18, 1987, graduates of Mid-America Seminary in Memphis, the following are from Mississippi:

Terry G. Carver, master of divinity, cum laude, pastor of Union West Baptist Church, Oxford; Jeff Paxton, master of divinity, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Paxton of Olive Branch; Jerry Winston Price, master of divinity, pastor of Evansville Baptist Church in Coldwater; Paul Stith, master of divinity, son of Mrs. Mary Stith of Kingsport, Tennessee, minister of music and youth at the Glendale Baptist Church in Brunswick, Georgia. (He served as minister of music and youth at Gray's Creek Baptist Church in Hernando, while he was a student at Mid-America.)

"If at first you don't succeed, you are running about average."

— M. H. ALDERSON

## Maize for Malawi

(Continued from page 3)

Southern Baptist missionaries and Malawian Baptist pastors have worked together to train Baptists there to witness for Christ as they work with government officials to distribute maize to Malawians. For the most part international donors such as the United Nations and the International Red Cross are caring for the Mozambicans.

An agricultural country, Malawi has very little industry. Many of the people are hard working subsistence farmers with little cash income. Even in a good year they produce barely enough food to eat between harvests.

Judy Garner is the Southern Baptist missionary press representative for Malawi.

## Parks asks . . .

(Continued from page 3)

some to feel they must choose between civil disobedience and a superficial faith. Better options should be provided." He asked that missionaries be allowed to take risks for their faith, just as Schultz and other government leaders do for "those ideals in which you believe."

Since leaving Lebanon a year ago, the Southern Baptist missionaries have moved to other places of service in the Middle East. Some have tried to maintain the Lebanon work from Cyprus, while others have begun new ministries in other countries. In a quirk of current events, several of the missionaries now serve in Gaza, another Middle East area stricken by violence in recent weeks.

"If they lift the ban, we'll all be on the first boat back to Lebanon," vowed Southern Baptist missionary Pete Dunn, currently on furlough in Mobile, Ala.

"We have a hundred things in the works," he said. One key element of Baptist ministry in Lebanon often overlooked, he said, is the humanitarian aid of food, clothing, and blankets distributed by Southern Baptist missionaries.

Mike Creswell is a missionary journalist.

## East Moss Point honors oldest member on birthday



Harold Anderson presents plaque to Mrs. Elsie Perkins.

Elsie Grierson Perkins has been honored by her family and church in celebration of her 90th birthday, during services at East Moss Point Church.

Mrs. Perkins, the congregation's

oldest living member, was presented a plaque by Harold A. Anderson, pastor. The plaque honored Mrs. Perkins for her 76 years of service to the church and its congregation.

Flowers were placed throughout the church auditorium by friends and relatives in honor of Mrs. Perkins, who was born Oct. 19, 1897. All her favorite hymns were featured in the service.

Mrs. Perkins is the widow of the late T. L. "Loyd" Perkins, to whom she was married on Oct. 25, 1916, in Moss Point.

The honoree is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John R. Grierson, and the mother of two daughters, both of whom joined her for the celebration — Mrs. Leroy (Estelle) Toups and Mrs. Carrol (Myrtle) Guillot, both of Moss Point.

Mrs. Perkins has four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She has been active in all facets of her church, including Sunday School, the Woman's Missionary Union and Training Union, as well as other church programs.

## Larry Lewis asks . . .

(Continued from page 3) helping WMU reach the 1988 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal of \$37.5 million.

"It would be a terrible travesty to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Woman's Missionary Union, and honor the memory and work of your first executive director, if we failed to meet the 1988 goal of the offering nam-

ed for Annie Armstrong." Such mutual commitments are essential if the marriage is to be "effective and lasting," Lewis said.

Lewis said, "We must be committed first of all to God in Christ Jesus. We must be committed to the tasks to which God has called us. And we must be committed to each other."

Susan Todd writes for WMU.

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# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

## Keep home alive and healthy: fifth commandment

By M. Dean Register

The fifth commandment is an imperative directed to the need for wholeness in the family. The brokenness that characterizes home life



Register

today is indicative of the importance of God's instruction to "honor your father and your mother" (Ex. 20:12). Over 65 percent of the prison population in America represent individuals from broken homes. A shocking 70 percent of drug users come from fractured families. The alarming increase of molestation, incest, and abuse in the home ought to open our minds and hearts to the cries of children and parents alike.

In an attempt to understand the fifth commandment, we must consider it in the context of the covenant. By bringing the family into the context of the covenant the Lord raised it to an exalted level and highlighted the truth that what

### LIFE AND WORK

one believes about God permeates one's behavior in the home.

What was originally meant by the word "honor"? The Hebrew word for honor (*kabed*) means heavy or weighty and it is commonly used to describe persons of worth and significance. One could paraphrase the commandment to read, "Value with worth and significance your father and your mother."

There are several ways we can apply this truth today. First, we can practice respect in the family. Although we generally think of the fifth commandment as an admonition for children, it was originally given to adults. Some scholars have suggested that the focus falls upon the respect for and nurture of, the aged in our families. Respect for one's parents establishes the foundation for respecting others. It is wise, however, for parents to realize that they ought

to behave in such a way that their lives command respect from their children.

Second, we can attempt to understand one another. The pressure on family members today is enormous. Children and teens wrestle with thorny problems of self-esteem, peer pressure, popularity, and sexuality. But parents struggle with similar and additional problems that pose serious threats to the unity of the home. In Eph. 6:4, Paul pleads for understanding when he tells parents not to exasperate their children. To understand another person does not mean that we condone the action of attitude of the person, but that we see that person through the spectacles of our own struggles and comprehend his or her heart. One of the easiest, but deadliest traps to fall into is that of fault-finding. It is a poisonous practice that eventually destroys the character of family members.

Third, we can act with love even when we don't feel like it. The Pharisees had a clever way of avoiding responsibility. In Mark 7:11-12 Jesus pointed out that they would often pronounce

"Corban" over their wealth so that they wouldn't feel obligated to help their parents. "Corban" was a term that allowed a person to dedicate his wealth to God through the temple. However, it was tragically abused. The Pharisee had an obligation to his parents, and Jesus would not let him evade love on the grounds of religious feeling. If we only do for our parents what we feel like doing, we may not do very much. Real love moves beyond the level of feelings and demonstrates itself in commitment.

I Timothy 5:8 indicates that we have a special responsibility to provide for our family. Christian parents and children cannot escape the responsibility to care for one another unless they incur the indictment of "infidel."

Charles Swindoll said, "Home is the place where life makes up its mind." Homes are havens for the greatest memories of the prison for the saddest atrocities. And the fifth commandment reflects one or the other.

M. Dean Register is pastor, First, Gulfport.

## The greatness of the kingdom: three parables

By Jimmy G. McGee  
Matthew 13:24-30, 37-46

Jesus often taught in parables. In Matthew's arrangement of the gospel narrative, the first recorded parable is in Chapter 13. In fact, there are seven parables here.



McGee

A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Jesus used everyday experiences of human activity to declare eternal spiritual truths. In interpreting parables it is important to take the most obvious similarity. Caution must always be observed in applying all details of the story. Of the seven parables in chapter 13, three have to do with sowing seeds in a field, and each is different in emphasis.

Why did Jesus teach in parables? He explained that parables both reveal the mysteries of the kingdom to the disciples and conceal the same from those who are blind and deaf to spiritual truth. So the parables are more than illustrations to enhance understanding, they are confusing to unbelievers. For us who believe, these parables of Matthew 13 underscore important truths regarding the nature of the

### UNIFORM

Kingdom of which we are participants. All but one are introduced by the statement, "the kingdom of heaven is like." The kingdom of heaven is the rule of God in his people by his Spirit.

Today we focus on three of the parables that spotlight the great value of the kingdom. We will affirm that the kingdom is greater than any other order and that it is worth any sacrifice.

The parable of the wheat and tares is recorded in verses 24-30 as spoken to the multitude and again in verses 37-43 as explained to the disciples only. It pictures the kingdom in the world in an ever present conflict of good and evil. In the day of judgment when Jesus comes again, the kingdom will be victorious and true Christians will be identified. The punishment of unbelievers and evildoers is certain. The blessing of those who know and serve Jesus is certain.

A man sows good seed in his field in anticipation of a wheat crop. In secret the man's enemy (the devil) sows tares in the same field. The good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, the tares are the sons of evil. Both sprout and grow

side by side. For fear of damaging and mistaking the good, the tares are allowed to remain until harvest. The harvest is the end of the world. The tares are gathered for burning. The wheat is gathered in rejoicing.

As Jesus spoke to the multitude, the message to underscore is as follows: There are two ways of life. One leads to destruction and everlasting hell; the other leads to life and everlasting joy in heaven. For awhile folks traveling both ways may appear alike, but in time the difference is as clear as daylight and darkness.

As Jesus explains to the disciples, the message searches for the real believer. There is concern for the cultivation and full development of the true disciple. Every time you have the real thing, there is the likelihood of counterfeits and look-alikes.

Wheat is the real thing; darnel is a look-alike. It is difficult to tell the difference in the stalk. Care must be taken not to damage the wheat in cultivation. But when the wheat heads, the truth is known. Fruit is the test of validity and it depends on the seed. One thing is sure, tares will never become wheat and the time of harvest will declare who's who. Because of self-deceit and the fact of life, "there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth" in anguish. Chris-

tians will be faithful, enduring to the end, and consequently will reign with Christ forever.

The parables of the treasure hidden in a field and the one pearl of great price illustrate graphically the value of the kingdom in comparison to everything else. The most important investment one can make is in the kingdom of heaven. It will cost all that one is in devotion and commitment. Someone has said, "It doesn't take much of a man to trust Jesus, but it takes all there is of him."

A man stumbles across a hidden treasure in a field. He quietly and quickly goes and sells all that he has in order to buy the field. He has discovered the one thing of greatest value. The discovery of the kingdom of heaven is like that.

A collector of pearls is willing to exchange all he has accumulated in order to possess just one that excels them all. The kingdom of heaven has that claim on us.

What is salvation worth? Yours? Your family's, your friend's, anybody's? It is worth whatever it takes in faith and devotion. And it takes the complete surrender of yourself to Jesus. God's kingdom is the greatest treasure in the world and it deserves our faithfulness and undivided allegiance.

Jimmy G. McGee is pastor, First, Grenada.

## Jacob's encounters with God and Esau: barriers broken

By Gayle Alexander  
Genesis 32:1 to 33:17

Often God will go to whatever lengths necessary in order to affect the growth and development of one's character. God yet wanted to change



Alexander

Jacob. The prospect of meeting with Esau was the great task that would lead to this development. The possibility of vengeance provoked by his own sin had to be faced.

In Genesis 32:1-2, Jacob received assurance of God's presence by the company of

angels. Jacob, wanting to use as much discretion as possible and test the spirit of his brother Esau, sent out an envoy to meet with Esau. Jacob's directive to his servants was in specific language that would identify Esau as the master and Jacob as the servant. The envoy returned with a report of Esau's 400 men which could mean nothing less than a band of desert raiders, such as, the Bedouin chieftains often led in the slaughtered spoil of lonely caravans. Jacob was filled with fear, and twenty years of unresolved guilt added to his fear. Jacob made three basic moves

### BIBLE BOOK

designed to guarantee his safety and that of his family.

First, he went to the Lord in humble prayer. Second, he sent lavish gifts to Esau to secure his good will. Third, he arranged his families, his possessions, and his fighting men, to the best possible advantage, and prepared to put up a good fight if it became necessary. However, the complete and only efficient preparation came through prayer. Jacob had moved his family across the River Jabbok while he turned back. With a heavy heart Jacob realized that he needed a much higher power than himself. He turned back to seek God alone. He spent the night in prayer, wrestling with an angel of the Lord, according to Hosea 12:3-4. Wrestling for the duration of the night did not indicate lack of physical power on the part of the messenger of God. It was not a question of the angel's power, but of Jacob's stubbornness that God was trying to overcome.

God is willing to put himself to the struggle in one's life in order to finally overcome stubbornness and rebellion so that he may affect greater character development. The failure to

bring about this change immediately caused the messenger of the Lord to cripple Jacob for life, as a reminder to him of that struggle and of his own dependency on God.

God will isolate a man, if necessary, in order to accomplish something in his life. Jacob was under that pressure. Laban was behind him. Esau was before him. What was he to do? His only hope was to appeal to God. When the angel asked him to let him go, Jacob said, "I will not let you go until you bless me" (32:26). Since Jacob had committed himself to God's purposes, he wanted signs of God's affirmation. Jacob prevailed with God in prayer.

It should be noted in this prayer struggle that Jacob did not identify specific sins against his father nor his brother. He did indicate, however, a spirit of humility (32:10). He cast himself upon the mercies of God for God's forgiveness. Jacob's prayer was directed to the covenant God of Abraham and Isaac. Furthermore, God had confirmed the covenant to Jacob, and his appeal was to that covenant relationship.

The angel inquired about Jacob's name in order to focus his attention on his character. In answering, Jacob had to identify himself as deceiver, supplanter. His new name, Israel, indicated that Jacob was a new man. One whose

heart and character has been changed by the Lord is prepared to face the future. At this point, things were no longer in the hands of Jacob. He was quite willing for them to be in the hands of God. No wonder Jacob gave the name of the place as Peniel which means the face of God.

Jacob moved from prayer time to encounter. "Jacob lifted up his eyes and looked and behold Esau came..." (33:1). Jacob used as much ingenuity as possible in strategically locating his family and possessions. He arranged them to meet Esau in intervals, with beloved Rachel the farthest removed from harm. He then met Esau first and bowed himself to the ground several times (33:3). It was Jacob's way of trying to break down those barriers between him and Esau.

Behavioral communication is powerful. Though he limped his way to victory, Jacob was successful in breaking down those barriers and Esau gave way to kindness. There was a peaceful understanding between the two. Each embraced the other. Jacob offered gifts which were refused. Esau offered to travel along with him, but Jacob wisely declined. Reconciliation was accomplished and they parted company on good terms.

Gayle Alexander is pastor, First, Tupelo.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

Dec. 9, 1987 -  
January 6, 1988

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(To be continued)



## KNOW YOUR VILLAGE STAFF MR. DON WILLIAMS

Mr. Don Williams is Unit Director at Farrow Manor in Independence. He and his wife, Margie, joined The Village Staff June 2, 1980 as houseparents on The India Nunnery Campus. They later became the first houseparents at Deanash. Farrow Manor is one of six locations where dependent children are served by The Baptist Children's Village.



# Baptist Record

## Released time programs offer religious education options

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — It's Tuesday afternoon and 12 third graders leave their public school classroom. They scurry across the school playground, cross a side street and climb the steps of a van that has been converted into a mobile classroom.

There they greet their teacher and spend the rest of the allotted school period studying a unit on caring for God's world. When the period is over, the children return to their regular classroom and resume their studies.

Those third graders, like other public school students throughout the nation, receive religious instruction each week through a program known as released time.

The constitutionality of such programs was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1952, when it held in *Zorach v. Clauson* that schools may release students for off-campus religious instruction. In an earlier decision, the high court had held such religious instruction could not be held on public school property. Although the *Zorach* decision allows school administrations to grant released time, it does not require them to do so.

While no exact figures are available, it is estimated released time classes are held in about 3,000 of the 16,000 school districts in the United States. Although some states have laws requiring public schools to allow students to participate in released time programs, most states leave the decision up to the local school administration.

Organizations sponsoring released time programs ask schools to allow students who present signed parental permission forms to be released for a

short period of time on a regular basis to receive religious instruction at an off-campus site. The sponsors are responsible for obtaining parental permission, transporting students to and from off-campus sites, selecting curriculum, and providing teachers and needed supplies.

A sponsoring organization may not ask the school to pass out permission forms, announce or otherwise promote the program, or give credits for the classes. Legally, a school's only role is to allow the students to leave campus without penalty and to arrange classwork schedules so as to accommodate the release.

According to a report by Ruth Correll, who conducted a study of released time programs in conjunction with doctoral work at New York University:

- Most released time classes were begun by a group of pastors and/or laypersons. Programs are sponsored by Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish groups.

- Funding for released time programs comes from church budgets, individual donations, fund drives, and tuition and registration fees.

- Although some programs use pre-packaged curricula, most programs develop their own curricula.

- Most released time classes are held for children at the elementary school level, with grades three through five the most popular.

- Parents usually have no relationship with the programs except to give permission for their children to attend.

- Released time teachers and staff members range from part-time

volunteers to full-time professionals.

- The most frequently mentioned advantage of released time is the availability of large numbers of children on a regular basis for religious education; the main disadvantages are related to scheduling adequate periods of time and arranging transportation.

Terry Heck, secretary of the National Association for Released Time Christian Education offered advice for interested churches and organizations:

- Make sure the program is legal. Remember that the sponsor, not the school, has to do the work.

- Build relationships with the schools and school boards. Few states require schools to release students.

- Develop a broad-based support group for the program. Programs that appeal to a wide range of church affiliations are preferable.

- Do not make students who do not participate in the program feel ostracized.

Kathy Palen writes for the BP Washington bureau.

### Buddhists can supply chaplains

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (EP) — Buddhists will be permitted to supply chaplains for the U.S. armed forces, and are the first religious group outside the Judeo-Christian tradition to be allowed this form of service. A Defense Department survey in 1984 found at least 2,493 Buddhists from various sects in U.S. military services.



### Guess what was here

Can anybody guess what was once on this site? It's been torn down for urban renewal in downtown Jackson. The street sign should give a clue.

## WMU Board affirms staff; deals with priorities

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — The executive board of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union unanimously affirmed national Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford and her staff, adopted guidelines for implementing social and moral issues as they relate to mission action, and were told of the agency's priorities until 2000 AD.

The executive board also declined to consider any change in relationship between WMU and the Southern Baptist Convention. The request to consider changing from auxiliary to agency status came from a messenger at the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis.

The board heard a report that

Weatherford is leading the national staff in the study of "Missions and the SBC," which includes the Baptist Faith and Message statement.

Board members also were told of WMU's priorities for the years 1988-2000. They are: equipping women and girls for missions leadership in the 21st century; involving the total church in missions; encouraging tithing as a basic concept of mission support; enlisting members and enlarging organizations; confronting moral issues; communicating missions in new ways; and maintaining effective internal operations at the WMU national headquarters.

In other business, the board: — Heard a report from national WMU staff concerning the almost 2 percent decline since last year in WMU magazine subscriptions.

— Adopted the 1990-91 Dated Plan, which outlines the activities, curriculum and products for WMU organizations in the churches for that year.

## Baptist missionary led Taiwan president to Christ

By Michael D. Chute

TAIPEI, Taiwan (BP) — The new president of the Republic of China (Taiwan), Lee Teng-hui, is a Christian who was led to faith in Christ by a Southern Baptist missionary 29 years ago.

As former vice president, Lee succeeded Chiang Ching-kuo, who died Jan. 13 of a heart attack. The 64-year-old Lee is the first Taiwanese, a native of the island, to become president. He will serve out Chiang's term in accordance with the constitution. Presidential elections will be held in 1990.

Southern Baptist missionaries say the new president professed faith in Christ through the work of a former missionary to Taiwan, Richard Morris.

"He (Lee) was introduced to Christ in an English Bible study class Richard was teaching," said Mary

Sampson, a Southern Baptist emeritus missionary who retired in 1983 after 31 years in mainland China and Taiwan.

Morris, who died two years ago, was working at the time with Mi Loh Geh Chapel, a Taiwanese Baptist congregation.

Another missionary, Faye Pearson, explained that Morris and a Chinese pastor, Paul Chen, had begun a Bible study in a Taiwanese suburb of Taipei.

The Morrises, the first Southern Baptist missionaries to study Taiwanese, were just finishing language school.

Lee was a regular member of Morris' study group and "had been studying various religions," said Morris' widow, Tena, from her home in Tucson, Ariz. "His wife was already a

Christian." Morris' efforts led Lee to accept Christ.

Lee was an agricultural teacher in a Taipei university at the time. The Lees and Morris remained close friends until Morris' death from Lou Gehrig's disease in 1985 and Mrs. Morris' return to the United States.

On her wall in Tucson is "an 8-by-10 picture of him (Lee) and Richard taken in his office in November 1984," said Mrs. Morris. "I was to begin teaching his wife English after we returned from furlough (in 1985)." Mrs. Morris now is executive director of the ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, commonly called Lou Gehrig's disease) Association in southern Arizona.

"He once told Richard that if he retired early from politics that he was

open to becoming an evangelist," Mrs. Morris said. "He is an active speaker in churches and other religious gatherings all over the island. His wife is a very active Christian also."

Five years ago, Lee gave a testimony about his Christian faith on national television, said Judy Robertson, associate director of East Asia for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. He was the governor of provincial Taiwan at the time.

Lee's testimony, in a 30-second TV spot, was one of several by influential Chinese Christians broadcast during a three-year "Bold Mission Taiwan" evangelism campaign in the early 1980s. The campaign was a joint venture between Baptists in Taiwan and the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Mike Chute is a missionary journalist for the FMB.

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